



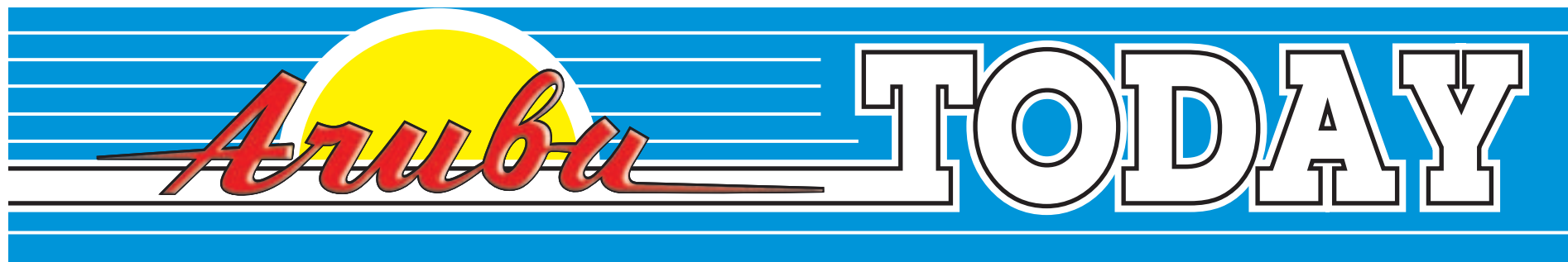
UNITED STATES TO SEND 300 MILITARY ADVISERS TO IRAQ

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Friday, June 20, 2014



Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) speaks to reporters after being voted by his caucus as the new House majority leader, on Capitol Hill in Washington, June 19, 2014. McCarthy, considered a relative moderate, is a close ally of Speaker of the House John Boehner, standing behind. House Republicans selected Rep. Steve Scalise (R-La.), left, to replace McCarthy as whip.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

Republicans Name McCarthy New Majority Leader

JEREMY W. PETERS

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WASHINGTON - House Republicans elected a new majority leader Thursday, choosing Kevin McCarthy, a Californian of moderate temperament who is likely to be more of a preserver of

the status quo - he is a loyal lieutenant to Speaker John A. Boehner - than the conservative firebrand many from the party's right flank had hoped to promote. McCarthy's ascension to the No. 2 job in the House of Representatives fills the

sudden void in the Republican leadership left by Eric Cantor's loss of his seat last week in a Republican primary. Cantor, a Virginian who was the heir apparent to Boehner, stunned the political establishment when he lost by more than

10 points to a Tea Party upstart and economics professor, David Brat. Although conservatives and Tea Party groups across the country hailed Brat's victory as a populist earthquake that should shake the Republican Party lead-

ership, McCarthy's triumph Thursday afternoon over a more conservative congressman, Raúl Labrador of Idaho, drove home a harsh reality for many on the right:

Continued on Page 3

United States to send military advisers to Iraq

MARK LANDLER

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WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama said Thursday that the United States will deploy up to 300 military advisers to Iraq to help its beleaguered security

fy targets and added, "We will be prepared to take targeted and precise military action if we conclude the situation on the ground requires it."

The president said little about the role of the Iraqi

"It's not our job to choose Iraq's leaders," Obama said, when asked about al-Maliki. But, he said "right now, there's too much suspicion, there's too much mistrust." He did, however, sharply criticize the policies

we speak," Obama said. "Right now they can make a series of decisions. Regardless of what's happened in the past, right now is a moment where the fate of Iraq hangs in the balance."

Obama said he still believed that the solution to Iraq's strife was political, not military. He said he was sending Secretary of State John Kerry to Europe and the Middle East this weekend to build support among Iraq's Arab neighbors for a multi-sectarian government in Baghdad. The president also suggested that there was a constructive role for Iran, Iraq's Shiite neighbor, to play in the crisis if, he said, "it is sending the same message to the Iraqi government that we are sending." But he warned that Iran would be a destructive force if it supplied "armed forces on behalf of the Shia."

Obama emphasized again that he would not send combat troops to Iraq, but he said the United States would help the Iraqis "take the fight" to the militants, who he said pose a threat to Iraq's stability and to U.S. interests because Iraq could become a sanctuary for terrorists who could strike the United States or its allies. □



President Barack Obama delivers a statement on Iraq in the Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington, June 19, 2014. Obama emphasized that he will not send combat troops to Iraq, but he said the United States would help the Iraqis "take the fight" to the militants.

(Gabiella Demczuk/The New York Times)

forces fend off Sunni militants, edging the United States back into a conflict that Obama thought he had left behind.

Obama also said the United States was gathering intelligence on the positions of militant fighters to identi-

fy targets and added, "We will be prepared to take targeted and precise military action if we conclude the situation on the ground requires it."

of the Iraqi government, which he said had alienated the Sunni minority - a message that he said the United States had delivered to al-Maliki publicly and privately.

"The test is before him and other Iraqi leaders as

Biden talks energy, crime in Dominican Republic

EZEQUIEL LOPEZ

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — U.S. Vice President Joe Biden met with the leader of the Dominican Republic on Thursday for talks touching on energy security, crime-fighting, trade and citizenship rights.

Biden met with Dominican President Danilo Medina for about 40 minutes at the presidential palace in Santo Domingo before making brief remarks to reporters, who did not get a chance to ask questions. He was scheduled to lunch with Medina, visit a solar energy facility and meet with U.S. Embassy staff at their new building. Biden and Medina said they discussed regional is-

ssues including energy security and the fight against drug traffickers and other transnational crime. According to U.S. officials, an estimated 6 percent of the cocaine bound for the United States passes through the Dominican Republic.

The vice president praised Medina for enacting legislation that will create a path to citizenship for people of Haitian descent born in the Dominican Republic. Biden congratulated the Dominican leader's administration for creating the law, describing it as a "bold step that required bold leadership." Legislators recently approved Medina's legislation following an international outcry over a Sep-

tember court ruling stating that people born in the Dominican Republic to illegal migrants were not automatically entitled to citizenship, basically rendering thousands of people stateless.

The court ruling aggravated longstanding tensions between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which share the island of Hispaniola, and it led to widespread international condemnation.

Biden told reporters he planned to talk with the Dominican leader at lunch about the situation in Venezuela, where people who oppose their country's socialist-led government have protested since February. He said he and Medina had a "mu-

tual interest in bringing greater political inclusion, stability, and protection of basic human rights beyond the issue of energy production and availability." The vice president traveled to the Dominican Republic from Colombia, where he spoke by phone to new Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and commended him for his commitment to move ahead with his peace plan for the embattled country.

Biden is scheduled to fly to Guatemala on Friday to close out his trip. His visit to the Dominican Republic was the first time that a U.S. vice president had visited the Caribbean country since Hubert Humphrey made the trip in 1966. □

US sanctions over for 308 linked to Colombian cartel

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Treasury Department lifted economic sanctions on Thursday against 308 people and entities with suspected links to a now-defunct Colombian drug cartel.

Thursday's action is the largest single delisting in the history of the Treasury's sanctions program.

Economic sanctions had been levied against the 78 individuals and 230 entities, primarily located in Colombia, under an executive order, which targets narcotics traffickers based in the country. All had alleged ties to the network led by Cali cartel leaders Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela. Sanctions still have not been lifted against the two, who are serving 30-year prison sentences in the United States.

"The sustained economic pressure on the Cali cartel, at its height the most powerful drug trafficking organization in the world, stemmed from close coordination between multiple U.S. law enforcement agencies and our Colombian counterparts," said Adam Szubin, director of the department's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

He said lifting the sanctions demonstrates the successful use of targeted sanctions, which destroyed the brothers' business empire. The U.S. continues to support Colombian authorities as they prepare to finalize the forfeiture of the brothers' assets, including the drugstore chain Drogas La Rebaja.

Treasury says it has determined that those delisted have shown that they no longer are engaged in activities that triggered the sanctions. Including Thursday's action, Treasury has delisted more than 800 people since 2012 and more than 1,300 in the past seven years.

The brothers were named as specially designated narcotics traffickers by President Bill Clinton in 1995. Colombian authorities later seized their assets, primarily those under the drugstore chain in Colombia. □

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Republicans name McCarthy new majority leader

Continued from front

They have been largely unable to crack the inner circle of House Republicans. Labrador is part of the 2010 Tea Party class of lawmakers who arrived in the nation's capital with what they felt was a clear mandate to push their party farther to the right. He was one of a dozen conservative members who did not support Boehner's speakership bid at the beginning of the 113th Congress, and is a regular guest at the Heritage Foundation's monthly gathering of conservative lawmakers for free-flowing discussions over Chick-fil-A lunch.

His victory set up a fight for the No. 3 post, House whip, which until now has been held by McCarthy. The job gets its name for the way the lawmaker in this position is charged with "whipping up the votes" - an especially critical role on tough votes, such as the bipartisan budget deal last year to reopen the government after a 16-day shut-down last year.

In the race for whip, Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., the chairman of the conservative Republican Study Committee, beat Peter Roskam of Illinois, who was next in line as McCarthy's chief deputy whip, and Rep. Marlin Stutzman of Indiana, who was a late entry into the race. His victory gave Southerners, who dominate the Republican membership in the House, a place in the leadership that many of them had demanded.

Although Scalise, 48, leads the Republican Study Committee, he is not considered as conservative as many of the group's members. But his selection still underscores the desire

of the rank-and-file House Republicans to elevate a conservative lawmaker to the leadership team. On display, as all three

men lobbied their colleagues and made their pitches over the past week, were strong ideological and geographical

tensions. Cognizant of his colleagues' desire to see a red-state, Southern lawmaker ascend to the leadership team, Scalise played

up his Louisiana roots.

On Wednesday evening, he took more than 40 members of his whip team to dinner at Acadiana, an upscale Louisiana fish house downtown, before heading over to cheer on some of his female colleagues in an annual charity softball game against the media. He also handed out bats to his whip team, bearing three slogans: "Bring the wood," "Scalise Whip Team 2014," and "Geaux!!!" - the Cajun expression for "Go."

Scalise's pitch, according to an aide, was simple: He plans to advance conservative policies in a pragmatic way, pulling on the expertise of all members and bringing every voice to the leadership table.

Roskam, 52, represents a suburb of Chicago, and is a lawyer, teacher, businessman, former state legislator and onetime congressional staffer to a House majority leader, Tom DeLay of Texas. □



House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy of Calif is pursued by reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, June 19, 2014, after being elected the new House majority leader by the Republican Conference, replacing Rep. Eric Cantor, R-Va., who was defeated in his primary earlier this month. Rep. Steve Scalise, R-La., is taking McCarthy's place as GOP whip.

(AP Photo/Lauren Victoria Burke)

Supreme Court:

First Amendment shields public employees on testimony

WASHINGTON - The First Amendment protects government employees from retaliation for giving truthful testimony that was not part of their job responsibilities, a unanimous Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

The case involved Edward R. Lane, a former director of a youth program at a public community college in Alabama, who was fired after giving trial testimony in a public corruption trial.

"It would be antithetical to our jurisprudence," Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote for the court, "to conclude that the very kind of speech necessary to prosecute corruption by public

officials - speech by public employees regarding information learned through their employment - may never form the basis for a First Amendment retaliation claim."

"Such a rule," she added, "would place public employees who witness corruption in an impossible position, torn between the obligation to testify truthfully and the desire to avoid retaliation and keep their jobs."

Lane had discovered that a state legislator, Suzanne Schmitz, was on his program's payroll, collecting \$177,000, although she performed virtually no work.

Lane fired her, and she vowed to get him back.

A federal grand jury indicted Schmitz on corruption charges. Lane, under subpoena, testified about what he had learned. Schmitz was convicted and sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Lane was nonetheless fired in 2009, and he sued the president of the college, Steve Franks, saying that his termination was retaliation for his testimony and a violation of his First Amendment rights. Franks said he let Lane go for financial reasons unrelated to his testimony. The federal appeals court in Atlanta

said it was unnecessary to decide who was right because public employees have no First Amendment protections for statements they make as part of their official duties.

Since "the record fails to establish that Lane testified as a citizen on a matter of public concern," the appeals court said in an unsigned opinion, "he cannot state a claim for retaliation under the First Amendment."

Sotomayor said the appeals court was wrong on both points: Lane had testified as a citizen, and his testimony was on a matter of public concern. □

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Afghanistan vet honored as new troops head to Iraq

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 24-year-old veteran who lost an eye after taking a grenade blast in Afghanistan to save a fellow Marine received the highest U.S. military honor Thursday in a somber White House ceremony.

President Barack Obama walked from the briefing room, where he had just announced plans to send up to 300 U.S. military advisers into Iraq, to the East Room, where he praised retired Cpl. William "Kyle" Carpenter's instinctive valor and called him a shining example for a post-9/11 generation.

"Carpenter should not be alive today, but the fact that he is gives us reason to trust that there is indeed a higher power," Obama said.

The dual events—Obama's Iraq announcement and the Medal of Honor ceremony—underscored just how much the U.S. is still realizing the human cost of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, two wars the



President Barack Obama awards retired Marine Cpl. William "Kyle" Carpenter, the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry, Thursday, June 19, 2014, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. Carpenter received the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while serving as an Automatic Rifleman in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

president pledged to end. Under a portrait of George Washington, Obama reflected on the sacrifices young men and women continue to make in the name of safeguarding U.S.

citizens and their values. "This United States Marine faced down that terrible explosive power, that unforgiving force, with his own body, willingly and deliberately, to protect a fellow

Marine," Obama said. The physical toll exacted by his act of heroism offered a sobering reminder of what was taken from Carpenter in the small Afghan village where he was wounded in

2010. Carpenter required almost 40 surgeries and multiple skin grafts, Obama said, leaving him with a prosthetic eye, a new jaw and teeth, and "one hell of a smile."

His face still scarred from his injuries, Carpenter said that as the president placed the blue ribbon around his neck, he felt the history and weight of the nation—from the deadly trenches of World War I to the sounds of his fellow Marines calling for help by radio as they bled in the fields of Afghanistan.

"I accept this honor with a heavy heart," Carpenter told reporters after the ceremony. "Freedom is a powerful and beautiful thing." Carpenter was barely 21 years old when he was assigned to guard a patrol base in a small village in Helmand province. That's where he and Lance Cpl. Nicholas Eufrazio were assigned to provide security from a rooftop post, their presence concealed only by a circle of sandbags piled three to four high, the Marine Corps said. □

US probes lab workers' possible anthrax exposure

M. MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

Some workers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may have been accidentally exposed to dangerous anthrax bacteria this month because of a safety problem at some of its labs in Atlanta, the federal agency said Thursday.

CDC officials said the risk of infection seems very low, but about 75 staff members were being monitored or given antibiotics as a precaution.

"Based on the investigation to date, CDC believes that other CDC staff, family members and the general public are not at risk of exposure and do not need to take any protective action," a statement from the agency says.

The problem was discovered last Friday, and some of the anthrax may have become airborne in two labs the previous week, the statement says.

The safety lapse occurred when a high-level biosecurity lab was preparing an-

thrax samples. The samples were to be used at lower-security labs researching new ways to detect the germs in environmental samples.

The higher-security lab used a procedure that did not completely inactivate the bacteria.

Workers in three labs who later came into contact with these potentially infectious samples were not wearing adequate protective gear because they believed the samples had been inactivated. Proce-

dures in two of the labs may have aerosolized anthrax spores.

Live bacteria were discovered last Friday on materials gathered for disposal. Labs and halls have been tested and decontaminated and will reopen "when safe to operate," the CDC statement says. Because proper procedures were not followed, the agency said workers will be disciplined.

"It's unacceptable, and we're going to do everything we can to understand

why it happened and what we need to do differently to make sure it doesn't happen again," said CDC spokesman Tom Skinner.

Skinner said he did not know how many employees were taking antibiotics or how they were exposed. Anthrax infections can occur through skin contact but "if you inhale it and you get it in the lungs, that's a lot more dangerous," said Paul Roepe, an infectious disease specialist at Georgetown University Medical Center. □

Court overturns LA law that bars living in cars

LISA LEFF

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A U.S. appeals court on Thursday struck down a 31-year-old Los Angeles

law that prohibits the use of a vehicle "as living quarters either overnight, day-by-day, or otherwise." The court said the law was unconstitutional because

of four people who were cited and arrested in the Venice area by Los Angeles police officers who concluded the numerous belongings in their RVs and

ing on a cellphone? Or staying in the car to get out of the rain?" Judge Harry Pregerson wrote for the panel. "These are all actions plaintiffs were taking when arrested for violation of the ordinance, all of which are otherwise perfectly legal."

The officers were part of an LAPD homelessness task force charged with enforcing the ordinance in response from community complaints about people living in their cars.

The panel's ruling overturned a lower court judge who had sided with the city and dismissed the case without a trial.

Carol Sobel, the lawyer for the three men and one woman who sued to overturn the law in 2011,

said Los Angeles' ban on living in cars was exceptionally broad. One of her clients was cited while waiting outside a church that served meals and another while driving her RV through Venice on her way to sell her work at a local art fair. Even so, the ruling might force other western cities within the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' territory to amend statutes that outlaw sleeping in vehicles, Sobel said.

"People living in their vehicles is one of the great unidentified homeless groups in this country — formerly middle-class people who lost everything during the recession and are trying to maintain the appearance of stability so they can go to work," she said. □



This photo shows Darlene Knoll, 53, resting in the sleeping area of the battered 1978 motor home where she lives in Los Angeles. A federal appeals court on Thursday, June 19, 2014, struck down a 31-year-old Los Angeles law that bars people from living in parked vehicles, saying the vaguely written statute discriminates against homeless and poor people.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

law that bars people from living in parked vehicles, saying the vaguely written statute discriminates against the homeless and poor.

The ruling involved a 1983

its ambiguous wording does not make clear what conduct would constitute a violation and "criminalizes innocent behavior."

The decision came in a case brought on behalf

cars meant they were violating the law.

"Is it impermissible to eat food in a vehicle? Is it illegal to keep a sleeping bag? Canned food? Books? What about speak-

Survey:

Number of millionaires up 2M to record

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly 2 million people around the world became millionaires last year, a year-over-year increase of 15 percent, as surging stock and home markets lifted the fortunes of the wealthy. The increase raised the number of millionaires to a record 13.7 million. A report from consultant Capgemini and the Royal Bank of Canada estimated the combined net worth of millionaires at \$53 trillion in 2013. That was up 14 percent from the year earlier — the second-biggest increase since the two companies began issuing wealth reports with comparable data in 2000.

The accelerating pace of wealth accumulation

among the affluent coincides with a widening gap between the rich and everyone else in many developed countries.

Japan gained 425,000 millionaires — a rise of 22 percent, its biggest year-over-year increase since 2000. Japan's was the largest percentage gain among the 25 countries with the most millionaires.

A big reason for the jump in Japan was surging stocks. The Nikkei 225, the main stock index, rose 57 percent last year. By contrast, the Standard and Poor's 500, an index of big U.S. companies, rose nearly 30 percent. Japanese millionaires totaled 2.3 million, second only to the United States. The number of U.S. millionaires rose 570,000, 17 per-

cent, to 4 million.

Globally, a bigger increase in the number of millionaires and in combined wealth occurred in 2009, when many stock markets began rising from multi-year lows.

Much of the world's stock wealth is concentrated among the rich. In the United States, for instance, 80 percent of stock is owned by the wealthiest 10 percent of households. Rising stock prices have helped boost the net worth of the wealthy and, thanks to dividends, their income.

By contrast, the middle class in many countries has struggled as millions of jobs wiped out in the financial crisis have yet to return. And wages, their primary source of income, have barely kept up with inflation. □

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Turmoil in Iraq is pushing up US gasoline prices



Marty Mascio of Pembroke Pines, Fla., selects a grade of gasoline as he fills up his car at a Chevron station in Pembroke Pines. Violence in Iraq is pushing U.S. gasoline prices higher during a time of year they usually decline. The national average price of \$3.67 per gallon is the highest price for this time of year since 2008, the year gasoline hit its all-time high.(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

JONATHAN FAHEY
AP Energy Writer

Violence in Iraq is pushing U.S. gasoline prices higher, depriving drivers of the usual price break between Memorial Day and July Fourth.

The national average price of \$3.68 per gallon is the highest price for this time of year since 2008, the year gasoline hit its all-time high.

The good news is that gasoline is not likely to spike above \$4 as it did 6 years ago. Or even cross \$3.90, as in 2011 and 2012.

"You are going to pay a little more than we thought you were going to pay," says Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service and GasBuddy.com. "But you are not going to see any apocalyptic numbers."

Gasoline prices typically fall in the weeks following Memorial Day, after supplies increase enough to fill up the cars of the nation's vacationers as summer approaches. Prices have declined during the previous three Junes, by an average of 21 cents per gallon, according to AAA.

This year, drivers are paying more. The average has risen every day for a week, and is now higher than it

was on Memorial Day — with more increases sure to come. Even before violence in

Iraq broke out, this year's predicted decline was slower than expected because of rising U.S. fuel

demand and extensive maintenance at some Gulf Coast refineries that reduced gasoline output. Then, last week, Iraqi insurgents seized a pair of cities and pledged to attack Baghdad. None of Iraq's oil fields were targeted, most are far away from the fighting, and oil exports have continued to flow. But Iraq is OPEC's second-largest exporter, so worries that oil production might be impacted was enough to send global oil prices up by nearly \$6, to \$114 per barrel. The average price of gas rose 3 cents per gallon during the past week, and analysts expect more increases over the next couple of weeks.

How the situation in Iraq plays out is impossible to predict, but analysts note that the global market is well-supplied with oil and fuels. Morgan Stanley wrote in a recent report

that the potential for a significantly higher sustained oil price was "limited without a major disruption," and that "the conflict will likely be contained primarily North of Baghdad, limiting the impact on oil exports."

But drivers in 15 states are already paying more for gas than they have since March of 2013, according to Kloza. The national average will likely soon surpass this year's high of \$3.70 per gallon, set on April 28. Kloza thinks the national average may get close to last year's high of \$3.79 per gallon, but he does not expect to see it reach the highs of 2011 and 2012, when it rose above \$3.90 per gallon.

And the chances of the average crossing the \$4 mark?

"The (last place) Mets have a better chance of winning the World Series," he said. □

APNewsBreak:

Hemp seeds seized at US-Canada border

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Hundreds of pounds (kilograms) of industrial hemp seeds bound from Canada to Colorado have been seized by U.S. border authorities, marking the latest bump along the road to legalization of marijuana's non-intoxicating cousin.

At the center of the dispute is hemp activist Tom McClain. Armed with a copy of last year's federal Farm Bill, which allowed states to permit hemp cultivation for research and development, he set off for McGregor, Manitoba, and bought 350 pounds (158 kilograms) of seeds used to grow a strain known as X-59 or Hemp Nut.

Hemp is legal in Canada and 15 U.S. states allow limited hemp production, including North Dakota, where the seeds were seized. However, under the Farm Bill, importing hemp seeds requires permission from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

McClain's seeds were confiscated Saturday, after he says he declared the seven bags in his trunk. McClain, however, has not been charged with a crime.

"They treated me very pro-

bring them in."

Shawn Neudauer, a spokesman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, confirmed the seizure.

"The shipment is currently undergoing scientific eval-



A farmer holds a handful of hemp seeds, on a day of planting in Sterling, Colo. Some 350 pounds of industrial hemp seeds bound from Canada to Colorado have been seized by federal authorities in North Dakota. The seeds have been held since Saturday, June 15. (AP Photo/Kristen Wyatt)

fessionally," McClain said after he returned to Colorado — without the seeds. "They were just a little confused as to what to do. According to them, I couldn't

uation, as hemp seeds can look much like marijuana seeds," Neudauer said in a statement. The seizure underscored the difficulties facing the fledgling U.S.

hemp industry after five decades of prohibition.

Hemp is prized for oils, seeds and fiber, but its production had been prohibited because the plant can be manipulated to enhance the psychoactive chemical THC — the intoxicant found in marijuana. In another recent case, U.S. customs officials in Louisville, Kentucky, held a shipment of hemp seeds from Italy that was bound for research grows.

Kentucky agriculture authorities sued the U.S. Justice Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Attorney General Eric Holder to force the return of the seeds. The DEA eventually relented and issued a permit to allow limited hemp planting for research in the state. McClain and Jason Lauve of the Colorado-based activist group Hemp Cleans have appealed to congressional representatives in the state to resolve the seed flap in North Dakota. □

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US Financial Front:

Fewer Americans applying for jobless aid

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer Americans sought unemployment benefits last week, as the number of people collecting jobless aid fell to its lowest level in more than six years.

The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications for unemployment benefits fell 6,000 to a seasonally adjusted 312,000. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, declined to 311,750.

There are 2.56 million people receiving benefits. That's the lowest total since October 2007, about two months before the recession began.

Jennifer Lee, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the report in a "blinding glimpse of the obvious" — "is clearly 'good news.'"

Applications are a proxy for layoffs, so the relatively low number of people seeking benefits shows that employers are letting go of fewer workers. When businesses are confident enough to keep staff, they may also hire more workers. Job gains should feed stronger economic growth. Earlier this month, the Labor Department said employers added a solid 217,000 jobs in May.

Monthly job gains have averaged 234,000 for the past three months, up sharply from 150,000 in the previous three. The unemployment rate, which is derived from a separate survey, remained at 6.3 percent in May. That's the lowest rate in more than five years.

The data in Thursday's unemployment benefits report overlaps with the survey for the June jobs

report. The low level of applications would suggest similarly strong hiring this month, Lee said.

The steady gains after the

economy shrank during the first three months of the year because of the winter weather — point to faster growth ahead.

Gross domestic product fell 1 percent in the first three months of 2013. Many economists expect that number could be further

revised downward, while growth returns as warmer weather has generated more hiring and consumer spending. □



Job seekers attend a job fair held by Sheetz to staff their under-construction distribution center, in Burlington, N.C. The Labor Department again has reported a lower number of people who applied for unemployment benefits over the previous weekly period on Thursday, June 19, 2014.

(AP Photo/The Times-News, Sam Roberts)

Average US 30-year mortgage rate at 4.17 percent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Average U.S. rates on fixed mortgages eased slightly this week, remaining near historic lows.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday the average rate for a 30-year loan declined to 4.17 percent from 4.20 percent last week. The average for the 15-year mortgage dipped to 3.30 percent from 3.31 percent.

Rising prices and higher interest rates beginning in mid-2013 have made homes less affordable for would-be buyers. At the same time, a limited supply of homes is available to buy. Sales of new homes are running about half the rate of a healthy housing market.

Reflecting the struggle for many Americans to afford new houses, data issued Tuesday by the Commerce Department showed that the pace of U.S. home construction slipped in May. Builders started work at a seasonally-adjusted yearly rate on 1.01 million homes, down 6.5 percent from 1.07 million in April.

And U.S. homebuilders are feeling more confident about the housing market but don't think it is healthy yet, the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index for June showed Monday.

Mortgage rates are about a quarter of a percentage point higher than they were at the same time

last year. The increase in rates over the past year or so was driven in part by speculation that the Federal Reserve would reduce its bond purchases, which have helped keep long-term interest rates low. Indeed, the Fed has announced five declines in its monthly bond purchases since December because the economy appears to be steadily healing. But the Fed has no plans to raise its benchmark short-term rate from record lows.

After the central bank ended a two-day policy meeting, Fed Chair Janet Yellen sent the message Wednesday that the economy still isn't healthy enough to grow at a consistently strong pace without the

Fed's help. Yellen made clear that despite a steadily improving job market and signs of creeping inflation, the Fed sees no need to raise short-term interest rates from record lows anytime soon.

To calculate average mortgage rates, Freddie Mac surveys lenders across the country between Monday and Wednesday each week.

The average doesn't include extra fees, known as points, which most borrowers must pay to get the lowest rates. One point equals 1 percent of the loan amount.

The average fee for a 30-year mortgage was unchanged from a week earlier at 0.6 point. □

In Maine;

Court battle pits farmers against state and one another



Harry Brown speaks in support of farmer Dan Brown, unrelated, during a rally before a hearing regarding Brown's right to sell raw cow's milk directly to consumers, outside of the Maine State Supreme Court building in Portland, Maine. Brown's case has pitted the state against some small-scale farmers, and stirred a feud between new homesteaders like Brown and longtime family farmers in the state.

JESS BIDGOOD

© 2014 New York Times

BLUE HILL, Maine - When Dan Brown quit his job driving trucks and began to work on his wife's family homestead here about a decade ago, he was looking forward to a quiet life of farming. He began raising chickens and growing vegetables, and watched happily as a calf named Sprocket thrived. The Browns built a farm stand and began selling unpasteurized milk and eventu-

ally other products, like jam and salsa.

With the addition of a few slick luxuries, like a hot rod and a flat-screen TV, they were pursuing a lifestyle that has drawn scores of people to this rocky peninsula. They are following in the footsteps of the back-to-the-landers who began flocking here decades ago, and the 19th- and early 20th-century rusticators who came before them to seek a haven away from the industrial

cities of the east. But a few years after the Browns began selling, state regulators saw a problem. It is legal to sell unpasteurized milk in Maine, but because Brown had never purchased a \$25 milk distributors' license and had not properly labeled his milk, the state argued his farm was breaking the rules and needed to be stopped. On Tuesday, Brown lost an appeal he had made to the state's highest court after he fought a lawsuit filed by the state of Maine in 2011. It was a blow to a small but vocal rebellion among farmers and consumers who say that burdensome state regulations are keeping the most local form of food - which, around here, has near-religious significance - away from consumers. The case has pitted the state against some small-scale farmers, and stirred a feud between new homesteaders and longtime family farmers. "This isn't about Dan Brown or Farmer Brown anymore," Brown, 46, said on a recent morning. "They're telling you that you don't have the right to come get milk from a farmer." Brown said he was told by

(Craig Dilger/The New York Times)

a state official in 2006 that he would not need to be licensed or inspected if he sold from his farm and did not advertise. So when state regulators from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry came calling a few years later, he said, he rebuffed them (colorfully, at times), unwilling to spend money on the upgrades he would need to qualify for a milk distributors' license.

"I don't need a \$40,000 milk room to produce safe, healthy milk," said Brown, who asserts that the decision to buy his milk should be left to customers who know him, not to the state. The state says the licenses are necessary because improperly handled milk can carry food-borne illnesses. "Our inspectors work closely with applicants to help them comply," said John C. Bott, the director of special projects and communications for Maine's Agriculture Department. In 2011, the state of Maine and the commissioner of its Agriculture Department filed a lawsuit against Brown, alleging that he had sold unpasteurized milk without the proper license and labeling, and

operated a food establishment without the license to do so. Last year a judge agreed, ordering him to pay a fine of about \$1,000 and to stop selling. Brown has since filed for bankruptcy.

"It was ridiculous, ludicrous and maddening," said Florence Reed, a neighbor who directs an organic farming nonprofit and who was a customer of Brown's. "Dan's milk is what they choose to protect us from?"

Last month, Brown went to the state's highest court, in Portland, for a hearing on his appeal, accompanied by a bevy of supporters who want farm-to-consumer sales to be free of state and federal regulation that, they say, is intended for supply chains that are much more complex than theirs. In 2011, voters made nearby Sedgwick the first town in Maine to pass a so-called food sovereignty ordinance, which grants an exemption from food safety rules to farmers selling directly to consumers. Blue Hill soon followed. There are now 11 towns in Maine with such ordinances, and similar measures have popped up in states including California and Vermont. Pete Kennedy, the director of the Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund, says this is the first litigation involving one of the ordinances, so advocates were watching closely.

"We've gotten them out of our bedrooms and our voting booths," said Betsy Garrold, the head of a group called Food for Maine's Future, before Brown's hearing. She then said they needed to get the state "out of our kitchens."

Mark Randlett, an assistant attorney general who was arguing the state's case, said Maine needed to be able to regulate food sales to protect public health. "The department really does support local food sales and these kinds of transactions between farmers and individuals," but not without rules, Randlett said last month. □



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Starbucks degree program not as simple as it seems

NEW YORK (AP) — The scholarship portion of a new education program Starbucks is offering to help workers pay for an online degree consists entirely of a discount from Arizona State University and not money from the chain. The Seattle-based company this week unveiled a benefit that is designed to let college juniors and seniors earn a degree from ASU at no cost. For the freshman and sophomore years, workers would pay a reduced tuition. Workers who are admitted to ASU could pick from 40 degree programs, and wouldn't be required to stay with Starbucks after they earned their degrees. A major aspect of the program is an upfront scholarship Starbucks said is an investment between itself and Arizona State University. When asked how much of that scholarship portion the company is providing, Starbucks initially said financial terms weren't being disclosed. Following the announcement, however, Arizona State University President Michael Crow told The Chronicle of Higher Education that Starbucks is not contributing any money toward the scholarship portion. Instead, Arizona State will essentially charge workers less than the sticker price for online tuition. Starbucks said Thursday that the scholarship is a reduced tuition rate. It estimates the reduction in tuition would average about \$6,500 over two years to cover tuition of \$30,000. To cover the remainder in the freshman and sophomore years, workers would apply for federal aid, such as Pell grants, and pay for the rest either out of pocket

or by taking out loans. Starbucks would bear no costs in those years. For the junior and senior years, Starbucks would reimburse workers for whatever tuition they had to cover either upfront or through loans, once they completed 21 credits. Matt Ryan, chief strategy officer for Starbucks, said on Thursday that for a worker's junior and senior years, the company could potentially cover up to 58 percent of the tuition, in cases where workers didn't qualify for grants. If workers did qualify for grants, he said Starbucks could be responsible for very little, if anything. He noted that workers financial situations can vary greatly. Laurel Harper, a Starbucks spokeswoman, said previously that the company's analysis with ASU found most of its workers would qualify for federal Pell grants. A representative for Arizona State wasn't immediately available for comment. The program, which has been widely praised because education benefits are rare for low-wage workers, brought attention to the struggles people face in paying for college. It is unusual because workers can pick from 40 different degree programs and aren't required to stay with Starbucks after they complete their degrees. It's not clear how much the program will end up costing Starbucks. But Ryan said the company expects that it will "for sure" be a much bigger investment than its current tuition reimbursement program, which will be phased out by 2015. □



The Starbucks logo is seen at one of the company's coffee shops in downtown Chicago. The scholarship portion of a new education program Starbucks is offering to help workers pay for an online degree consists entirely of a discount from Arizona State University and not money from the chain.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

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Iraqi political leaders maneuvering to replace Al-Maliki

**ALISSA J. RUBIN
ROD NORDLAND**

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BAGHDAD - Alarmed over the Sunni insurgent mayhem convulsing Iraq, the country's political leaders are actively jockeying to replace Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, U.S. and Iraqi officials said Thursday. The political leaders have been encouraged by what they see as newfound U.S. support for replacing al-Maliki with someone more acceptable to Iraq's Sunnis and Kurds, as well as to the Shiite majority, the officials said.

They stressed that the discussions were all within the framework of Iraq's constitution and the recent elections in the country, which calls for the formation of a new government over the next few weeks.

During the past two days the U.S. ambassador, Robert S. Beecroft, along with Brett McGurk, the senior State Department official on Iraq and Iran, have met with Usama Nujaifi, the leader of the largest Sunni contingent, United For

Reform, and with Ahmad Chalabi, one of the several potential Shiite candidates for prime minister, according to people close to each of those factions, as well as other political figures.

"Brett and the ambassador met with Mr. Nujaifi yesterday, and they were open about this; they do not want Maliki to stay," Nabil al-Khashab, the senior political adviser to Nujaifi, said Thursday. "We will not allow a third term for the prime minister; they must change him if they want things to calm down."

Al-Maliki, a Shiite, has marginalized other Iraqi groups, pursuing sectarian policies that are widely blamed for the ballooning Sunni insurgency that seized western Anbar province six months ago and during the past few weeks has taken territory in the north, most notably Mosul, Iraq's No. 2 city, and Tikrit, the hometown of Saddam Hussein.

The extremist Sunni fighters are led by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and

the Levant, allied with the vestiges of loyalists to Saddam toppled by the U.S. invasion a decade ago. They are now threatening to march on Baghdad and

political leaders to form a coalition to choose a new prime minister.

"That is 100 percent not true," he said. But the Obama adminis-

a phone call Wednesday night with Vice President Joe Biden laid out some of the Kurds' demands for participation. He expects to meet over the weekend



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki waves to a crowd in Baghdad. Alarmed over the Sunni insurgent mayhem convulsing Iraq, the country's political leaders are actively jockeying to replace Al-Maliki, American and Iraqi officials said Thursday, June 19, 2014.

(Max Becherer/The New York Times)

invade the heavily Shiite south.

McGurk, in an email Thursday, denied that U.S. diplomats were trying to urge

tration has made no secret of its exasperation with al-Maliki.

The president of the Kurdish region, Massoud Barzani, in

with Beecroft and McGurk, said Falah Mustafa, who serves as the foreign minister of the Kurdish autonomous region. □

Russian buildup seen as fighting rages in Ukraine

**VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG**

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia is resuming its military buildup along the Ukrainian border in an apparent attempt to intimidate its neighbor, NATO's chief said Thursday

as Ukrainian government forces unleashed a major offensive against pro-Moscow insurgents.

Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke by telephone to German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French

President Francois Hollande, voicing strong concern about the Ukrainian military onslaught. Putin said he expects Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to immediately launch his plan to end the violence,

the Kremlin said.

Putin and Poroshenko then discussed details of the peace plan in a phone call — their second conversation this week. Poroshenko's office said he emphasized the need for introducing effective border controls and quickly releasing hostages.

Russia has denied Ukrainian and Western allegations that it is fomenting the rebellion by sending troops and weapons into Ukraine. Last month, in an apparent attempt to ease tensions in Ukraine, Putin pulled back many of the estimated 40,000 Russian troops massed along the border. But on Thursday, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said that Russia has sent a few thousand additional troops to the border, calling it "a very regrettable step backward." "If they're deployed to seal the border and stop the flow of weapons and fighters, that would be a

positive step. But that's not what we're seeing," Rasmussen said in London. The Russian Defense Ministry refused to comment.

The allegations came as heavy fighting raged near Krasnyi Liman in the Donetsk region, which has been the epicenter of violence over the past two months. Vladislav Seleznev, a spokesman for Ukrainian forces in the east, described the area as a strategic supply corridor for the rebels. He said in a statement on Facebook that four government troops were killed and 20 wounded in the fighting Thursday.

He said up to 200 rebels were killed and hundreds wounded. The claim could not be independently confirmed. Rebel chief Igor Strelkov said in a statement on YouTube that his men were far outnumbered and outgunned and would probably be forced to retreat. □



Russian President Vladimir Putin listens during a meeting in Moscow's Kremlin on Thursday, June 19, 2014. Putin has faced strong pressure from nationalists at home to send troops into Ukraine following the annexation of Crimea in March.

(AP Photo/Alexei Nikolsky)

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Palestinians, Israeli troops clash in teens search

IAN DEITCH

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli soldiers clashed with Palestinians during an arrest raid early Thursday in the most

ducted in the West Bank.

The military said about 300 Palestinians took to the streets when the soldiers entered the West Bank town of Jenin overnight.

live fire, it said.

There were no serious injuries reported on either side. Israel has blamed the Islamic militant group Hamas for the apparent

arresting scores of members while conducting a feverish manhunt for the missing youths.

Hamas has praised the abduction of the teenagers, but has not claimed responsibility for it.

The crisis has escalated already heightened tensions between Israel and the new Palestinian government, which is headed by Western-backed President Mahmoud Abbas but supported by Hamas. Israel along with the West, considers Hamas a terrorist group because of its long history of attacks on Israeli civilians. Hamas has abducted Israelis before.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the Palestinian unity agreement Thursday afternoon at a press con-

ference at a military base.

"I expect Abu Mazen (Abbas) to expel this murderous terror group from his government," Netanyahu said. "I think that's important for our common future," he said.

"Hamas have called time after time to abduct Israeli civilians," he said.

The three teens— Eyal Yifrah, 19, Gilad Shaar, 16, and Naftali Fraenkel, a 16-year-old with dual Israeli-American citizenship — disappeared late last Thursday while hitchhiking home from Jewish seminaries in the West Bank.

Families of the teens prayed Thursday at Jerusalem's Western Wall, a remnant of the biblical Jewish Temple compound, and the holiest site where Jews can pray. □



An Israeli soldier watch as others visit shops in a market in an attempt to obtain security camera footage during a search for three missing Israeli teens believed to have been abducted, while scouring the West Bank city of Hebron on Thursday, June 19, 2014.

(AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed)

violent confrontation so far in the weeklong search for three missing Israeli teens believed to have been ab-

Some opened fire while others threw explosive devices or rocks at the soldiers, who responded with

abductions, without providing evidence, and has launched a widespread crackdown on the group,

Egypt's Mubarak breaks leg in hospital

MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's ousted President Hosni Mubarak broke his leg at a Cairo military hospital on Thursday, where he is serving a three-year prison sentence in a corruption case, a security official said.

The official said the 86-year-old Mubarak slipped in the bathroom and broke the upper part of his thigh bone, adding that he would need surgery. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to media.

Mubarak, toppled in 2011 amid massive protests against his nearly three-de-

cade rule, is facing a retrial for his role in the killing of hundreds of protesters during the uprising.

Mubarak was found guilty in June 2012 of failing to stop the killing of more than 900 protesters during the 18-day revolt and sentenced to life imprisonment, but his conviction was overturned in January 2013. That decision was appealed by prosecutors, and a retrial began in April 2013.

He was ordered released in August last year pending his graft trial, but was kept at a military hospital in a suburb south of Cairo. Given his poor health, Mubarak is likely to serve

his sentence in the hospital.

Last month Mubarak was convicted on charges of embezzling millions of dollars of funds allocated for the renovation of presidential palaces. Mubarak's two sons, one-time heir apparent Gamal and wealthy businessman Alaa, were also convicted of graft and sentenced to four years in prison each in the same case.

They have all been held since 2011 but only time in custody in connection with the graft case — about a year since the charges were raised — will be deducted from the sentences. □

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Mexico: Dozens of bodies found in mass grave

RODRIGO SANTIN
Associated Press

TRES VALLES, Mexico (AP)

— At least 28 bodies have been recovered from a mass grave in Veracruz, an eastern Mexican state plagued by attacks on migrants and drug cartel violence, officials said this week. The state government said officials found the grave on a ranch outside the town of Tres Valles. It said investigators were still excavating the grave, but did not release any more details. A local newspaper reported that marines found the bodies after spotting vultures on a dirt road.

The area was being guard-

ed by federal and state police forces, while people with missing relatives or friends began arriving at the offices of state authorities in Tres Valles to see if their loved ones were among the victims. Investigators were looking for more bodies on the ranch, which is known as El Diamante.

On Monday, authorities found seven bodies in a grave in the nearby town of Cosamaloapan. Authorities said the victims were all members of one family from Tres Valles.

The Gulf Coast state of Veracruz has suffered years of fighting between the Zetas drug cartel and its

rivals. It is also crossed by tens of thousands of Central Americans migrants heading toward the U.S. each year. Officials have discovered a series of mass graves around Mexico in recent years, several filled with the bodies of migrants slain by the gangs that control profitable migrant-smuggling routes.

One of the largest single mass graves found in Mexico in recent years was discovered in 2010 in Tamaulipas state. It contained the bodies of 72 migrants, whom authorities said were slain by members of the Zetas angry that the victims declined to work for the cartel. □



People hold portraits of their missing loved ones in front of the morgue of Cosamaloapan, with the hope of finding and identifying the bodies of their missing, from a mass grave which has been recently discovered, in Veracruz, Mexico.
(AP Photo/Felix Marquez)

China PM visits Greece; \$4B deal signed

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang oversaw the signing of trade and investment deals worth some \$4.6 billion with Greece Thursday during a visit expected to help boost the recession-plagued country's economy.

At a press conference with Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, Li expressed support for bailed-out Greece's economic revival effort.

He also said China plans to increase its purchases of Greek government bonds when new ones are issued in a sale expected later this

summer.

"We have never abandoned the Greek bond market but we are increasing our purchases," Li said. "I have expressed my will to Mr. Samaras that when the Greek government issues new bonds China will continue to be a long-term and responsible investor in Greek bonds."

On the sidelines of Li's visit, Chinese and Greek delegations signed bilateral cooperation agreements in areas including energy and shipping worth about 4.6 billion dollars, according to the Greek Development Ministry.

Li reached Greece after a three-day trip to Britain. Analysts say Europe is becoming increasingly important to China in economic terms, sharing a relationship largely unburdened by the mistrust and intractable disputes Beijing shares with the U.S. and Japan.

"Li Keqiang wants to send a message to Europe that their old conception of China is no longer valid and to explain what it is exactly that China intends to do," said Cui Hongjian, director of European studies at the Foreign Ministry think tank, the China Institute of International Relations. □

AP: Pope skips procession, taking it easy ahead of trip

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis skipped an annual procession to a Roman basilica on Thursday as he takes it easy ahead of a jam-packed trip to southern Italy this weekend.

The Vatican has denied media speculation that the 77-year-old Francis is sick. News reports have zeroed in on the fact that Francis, who only has one full lung, canceled his general audiences for July. Francis canceled his weekly general audiences in July last year as well, as have popes for years during the hot summer months. Still, Francis appears to have taken to heart advice expressed privately by some aides that he should cut back his frantic work pace, particularly to rest up before big events.

On Thursday, he decided to skip the 1.5 kilometer (mile-long) procession from one Roman basilica to another. He did however preside over a nearly three-hour outdoor service at the start of the procession.

Francis, who often walks with a limp because of a bad back and knees, actually broke with papal tradition when he walked the procession route last year in his first year as pope.

For his entire papacy, Pope Benedict XVI participated in the procession by riding on a flat-bed truck to spare him the walk. Pope John Paul II did the same in the final years of his papacy.

Francis on Saturday travels to the southern tip of Italy, the Calabrian town of Cassano all'Jonio, for a 12-hour marathon visit. After a 90-minute helicopter ride from the Vatican, Francis will meet with inmates at a prison, visit the sick at a hospice center, meet with diocesan priests, share lunch with the poor, visit the elderly in a retirement community and then, at the end of the day, celebrate an open-air Mass. In all, he'll make six stops and deliver two speeches and a homily before returning to the Vatican by helicopter.

Prior to his similarly grueling trip to the Middle East last month, Francis also rested up ahead of time, cancelling a planned parish visit.

There is no sign he is cutting back on travel, however: The Vatican just announced a packed itinerary for his Aug. 14-18 trip to South Korea, and Francis himself revealed over the weekend that he plans to go to Albania for a day in September. His 2015 agenda includes a quick visit to Sri Lanka and the Philippines in January, followed by an expected trip to the United States in September. Last week, Francis canceled a few audiences because he had a stomach bug. He was back in form after two days of rest.

Francis recently acknowledged that the strain of being a pope was getting to him. "I need extra prayers," he told the faithful during a visit to the Sant'Egidio community last weekend, adding that "my work can be unhealthy."

Francis has put on weight since his election. Friends from Argentina joke it's because they keep plying him with sweets made with the Argentine spread dulce de leche when they visit. He has certainly cut back on the exercise he got zipping around Buenos Aires on public transport. And he no longer cooks for himself, now having full meals prepared for him by the Vatican hotel. Observers note his tastes don't necessarily go in the direction of lean protein and vegetables.

That said, Francis seems content to leave his fate in God's hands. Asked in a recent interview with a Spanish newspaper why he doesn't take more security precautions, such as a bullet-proof popemobile, Francis quipped:

"It's true, something could happen to me. But let's be realistic: at my age, I don't have much to lose." □



Saturday Night at South Beach Lounge:

Orange Grove returns to Aruba for free Isla Concert!

ORANJESTAD - The St. Martin originated band Orange Grove, who are currently playing at festivals in Europe and performing with world famous DJ's such as Bob Sinclair, are touring through the Caribbean and will give a free concert this Saturday the 21st of June at South Beach Lounge.

Orange Grove is no stranger to the island of Aruba, the 5 musicians come here every year during the Isla Concert that Vibration PR organizes to promote Caribbean originated artists on Aruba. Last year 900 people saw them perform at Sand Bar together with Levi Silvanie and Punky Donch and following in July with Patrick Graham and Datapanik. Their hit song Living Easy has caught Aruba by a storm back in 2009



and the band currently has their new single Ready for It, remixed by Frenchmen Bob Sinclair, breaking through in European music charts. Frontman Michael Maidwell and close friend (and guitarist) Jacob Streefkerk

formed the band back in 2001. What started as a hip-hop group turned into one of most unique blend of sounds to come out of the Caribbean combining rock, hip hop and reggae. For more than 10 years they have continued to ex-



pand their fan base from the Caribbean to Europe all the way back across the Atlantic to the United States. Currently a group of 5 they form an unstoppable assembly with one goal in sight: spreading the feel-good vibes to the world.

The Isla Concert will take place this Saturday the 21st of June starting at 8:00, however South Beach Lounge will be open for the FIFA matches throughout the day. Guest performances by DJ Selekt & House DJ Ralph. The entrance is free! □

Participants in Social Project Start at Arikok National Park



ORANJESTAD - Recently two new team members joined the Park Rangers of

Arikok National Park. These special 'guest rangers' take part in an on-the-job-

social reintegration project called 'Formacion Social'. The project, launched by

Prime Minister Mike Eman in cooperation with Arumil and the Dutch Marine Corp is to give dropouts and youth with a disadvantaged background a second chance to get their lives back on track.

"The park is very excited to be part of the project, in this way offering others the opportunity to better their lives. At the same time they are contributing to the preservation of Aruba's nature so it's a win-win. Feedback from the participants themselves, as well as from our team members has been great so far and the cooperation works out well", Indra Zaandam of Arikok Park explains.

The participants will complete three months of volunteer work inside Aruba's National Park, of which the first month is almost completed. They assist in daily maintenance tasks and

general assignments helping the Park Rangers. On turns they also attend the entrance booths in the park.

Arikok National Park comprises almost 20% of the island (7907 acres) and can be visited daily from 8 am - 4 pm at a conservation fee of \$10 per person (children up to 17 enter free). Arikok's mission is to protect and conserve Aruba's nature and wildlife, while educating and informing its visitors. Arikok offers a wide variety of local flora and fauna as well as special attractions such as rare caves, secluded beaches and the Natural Pool. Guided tours by Park Rangers are free of charge. Reservations must be made at least a day in advance; tel 585 1234. Also visit arubanationalpark.org and [facebook.com/ArikokNationalPark](https://www.facebook.com/ArikokNationalPark). □

"The Funniest Standup Comedy Show I Have Ever Seen"

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PALM BEACH – The Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino in the High Rise Area is the place to go to see the best entertainment in Aruba. Period. Six nights a week, three hilarious comedians will do a 90 minute show. The show was absolutely hysterical, laughs from start to finish. It is currently Chuck Nice, Brian Scott McFadden, and Ray Ellin. They will be here until June 23rd, then there will be oth-

er comedians in the weeks to come.

Chuck Nice is a New York radio star and very recognizable face; he has been on countless television shows, from VH1's Best Week Ever to NBC's Today Show to Tru TV's World's Dumbest to ABC's The View to his own show on HGTV.

Brian Scott McFadden is in the hit film The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, has been on the Letterman Show,



and the Craig Ferguson Show on CBS.

Ray Ellin hosted the show. I have never seen someone work a crowd the way Ray did; it was hilarious, and not mean-spirited. Ray is the host of the new Gong Show Live, a resurrection of the classic 70's television show. He also hosted the popular talk show Late

Net, and hosted the television shows The Movie Loft, Brain Fuel, and New York Now. He also produced and directed the very successful film The Latin Legends of Comedy.

The shows start at 830pm. Doors will open at 8pm.

Audience members can purchase an optional premium four-hour open bar for only \$20! The open bar continues after the show in the casino area until MID-NIGHT. An incredible deal! Tickets for the shows can be purchased at any De Palm desk, or in the Marriott lobby. You can ask your concierge for assistance. The tickets are \$34... and each ticket comes with a few bonuses:

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Each person gets a FREE Welcome Drink at the show, and there is no drink minimum.

And each Comedy Ticket will also provide a 20% discount to the Aruba La Vista buffet.

These three comedians perform regularly in New York City's biggest venues. The showroom was very comfortable, but seating is first come first serve! So you should try to arrive early enough.

And while these shows were not vulgar, they are intended for an adult audience. For more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino at 011-297-586-9000



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EAGLE BEACH - The island's original smokehouse now has a fulltime location with-



in the Alhambra Casino & Shops complex just off of Eagle Beach. Originally located in a historic building in San Nicolas owned and operated by the Bislick family since 1941, the closing of the refinery left owners Michael and Tina Bislick opting to keep their in-demand southern cuisine available to their loyal followers on the weekends under a tent in various spots of the island. The 5-star Trip Advisor restaurant went on to win the most recent Battle of the Food Trucks, prompting the couple to

open a full-fledge restaurant again.

The soft opening during FIFA World Cup 2014 game Spain Vs Netherlands brought many of the Dutch team fans into the restaurant for a much enjoyed afternoon of delicious food and drink. The restaurant



will be opening full time on Wednesday, June 18th, 2014.

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Game 6 AWG 1500	at 55 or more calls AWG 500,-
	Game 11 AWG 10.000

Welcomed Back with Open Arms: The Bussey Family!

PALM BEACH - Another warm Bugaloe welcome back to the Bussey Family all the way from Hamilton New Jersey. Brian, Deborah and their daughter Alexandra have been coming to Aruba for the last 5 years, where they discovered Bugaloe in the first year. Even though their main reason for coming back to the island is the beautiful weather, friendly people and stunning sunsets, we kind of feel that Bugaloe is another great reason why they keep returning. Finding their way to the island year after year has been a true bliss.

And why wouldn't it? The Bussey family cannot imagine to visit any other island, and are settling down every year at the Radisson Aruba Resort & Casino. While they love spending their time on the island by going to the beach, Bugaloe



oe has become their home away from home. Literally, because they visit Bugaloe 3 or more times a day! Why they come back so often

maybe has to do with this: During their second year of visit, Alexandra's beauty did not go by unnoticed. "Ditto, the bartender came

all the way around the bar and started picking-up my daughter, and asked her out!" says Deborah. Definitely one of the family's

funniest memory of Bugaloe.

When asked why they like Bugaloe so much Brian has difficulty pinpointing what this is exactly. "We just like everything: from the food to the drinks and the sunsets to the bartenders, Bugaloe just offers everything 'Vacation' to us". Talking about food and drinks, Deborah and Alexandra just cannot pick whether they like the fish or mozzarella sandwich better. "Both are just delicious".

Most importantly, both are just perfectly accompanied by a Balashi Chill or Mudslide cocktail. Overall, The Bussey's have become great friends with the Bugaloe crew, and we would like to thank Brian, Deborah and Alexandra for being such loyal guests! Up to more fun memories, and another 5 years! □

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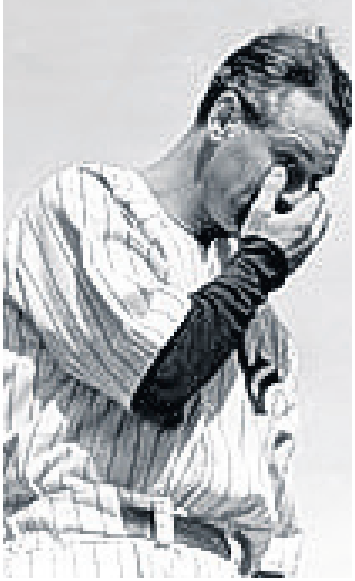
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In this July 4, 1939, file photo, New York Yankees' Lou Gehrig wipes away a tear while speaking during a tribute at Yankee Stadium in New York.
Associated Press

Gehrig on anniversary of famed speech

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball is preparing to honor Lou Gehrig on the 75th anniversary of his famed "luckiest man" speech.

MLB will donate \$300,000 to organizations that fight Lou Gehrig's disease.

The Hall of Famer was suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis when he spoke at Yankee Stadium on July 4, 1939. The first baseman died two years later from ALS at age 37.

MLB players, managers, coaches and umpires will wear a commemorative patch on July 4. The tribute will include a video shown at all ballparks featuring a first baseman from each team reciting a line from Gehrig's speech.

MLB made the announcement on Thursday, the 111th anniversary of Gehrig's birth.

"Lou Gehrig ... indelibly linked our national pastime to the fight against the disease that would bear his name," Commissioner Bud Selig said in a statement. □

TRAVELIN' MAN



Steele bolts into lead at Travelers

Brendan Steele, right, assesses his second shot on the 18th hole during the first round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn., Thursday, June 19, 2014. Steele finished his round with an 8-under par, 62.

Associated Press
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Champions

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Brendan Steele shoots 62 to take Travelers lead

PAT EATON-ROBB

Associated Press

CROMWELL, Connecticut

(AP) — Brendan Steele shot an 8-under 62 in the morning session to take a one-stroke lead after the first round of the Travelers Championship.

Steele opened with an eagle, holing a 129-yard wedge shot in the rain. He birdied six of the next 12 holes at TPC River Highlands, and closed the bogey-free round with five straight pars.

Steele finished two shots off the course record set by Patrick Cantlay in 2011 as an amateur.

"On 14, I started to think 59, which is probably why I slowed down a little bit," Steele said.

Bud Cauley and Ryan Moore shot 63, and Chad Campbell, Joe Durant, Scott Langley, Eric Axley and Jeff Maggert followed at 64.

Patrick Rodgers and Cameron Wilson made their pro debuts, with Rodgers shooting a 66, and Wilson



Brendan Steele watches his drive on the 10th tee during the first round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn., Thursday, June 19, 2014.

Associated Press

a 73.

Two-time heart transplant recipient Erik Compton, coming off a second-place tie in the U.S. Open, shot a 74.

Steele and Cauley went out in a steady rain Thursday morning, but by noon the sun had broken through.

"It took the rain pretty well," said Masters champion Bubba Watson, who shot a 67 and was among 75 players to break par. "It's kind of soft, but not too windy, so you can score around it."

But nobody could catch Steele, who is shooting for his third top-10 finish

this season after failing to qualify for the U.S. Open. He instead watched from the stands as his favorite hockey team, the Los Angeles Kings, won the Stanley Cup.

Steele changed putters during the second round of U.S. Open qualifying and said that decision to go from long to short has been paying off.

He needed just 26 putts Thursday.

"Speed control is a lot better," he said.

Cauley started on the back nine and got his round going on the signature 15th hole. He avoided the woods on the right and put his tee shot within 20 feet, then made the eagle putt.

"With that pin back right, if you hit it right, that's obviously not where you want to be, and obviously there's water left," he said. "So I hit that right where I was trying to and rolled it up there and capitalized with the putt."

Campbell was at 7 under until he hit it into the water

on the same hole.

Moore, who has four top-10 finishes in eight starts at this tournament, credited his 63 to a decision not to practice after a poor round in the pro-am Wednesday.

"I was relaxed and comfortable and just went out and played golf today instead of overdoing it and over-thinking it, which I feel like I've maybe done a little lately," Moore said. "I've been practicing too much."

Trevor Immelman had the shot of the day, making a double eagle from 246 yards on the par-5 13th hole. He used a 3-wood and cleared a green-side water hazard.

"The main thing is to keep it dry," he said. "You got to get it over there, and it came out pretty good and started rolling."

Immelman also had three bogeys in his round of 68. Defending champion Ken Duke opened with a 65.

Louis Oosthuizen withdrew after seven holes because of back issues. □



Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki plays a return to Italy's Camila Giorgi during the Aegon International at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, England, Thursday June 19, 2014.

Associated Press

BARRY WOOD

Associated Press

EASTBOURNE, England (AP)

— Former champions Caroline Wozniacki and Ekaterina

Makarova headed in different directions in the Aegon International quarterfinals on Thursday.

Wozniacki, champion in

Wozniacki wins, Kvitova pulls out at Eastbourne

2009, held off a strong challenge from Camila Giorgi of Italy 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2.

Makarova, the 2010 champ from Russia, fell to fifth seed Angelique Kerber 6-2, 6-1, with the German avenging her second-round defeat to Makarova last year.

Meanwhile, 2011 Wimbledon champ Petra Kvitova withdrew with a right hamstring injury but expects to play in Wimbledon next week.

Wozniacki and Giorgi were interrupted in the second set when a spectator was removed from the stands

on a stretcher as Giorgi led 4-3 on serve. When play resumed, Giorgi failed to win a break point to lead 5-3 and Wozniacki went on to win three straight games to level at one-set all.

Wozniacki remained under pressure in the final set, fighting off two break points before breaking to lead 2-1. A double-fault at 4-2 left Wozniacki serving for victory, and in sight of her first title since October. "It feels good," Wozniacki said of her win. "Game feels in really good shape. Camila played really well.

I really had to be focused out there."

Kerber fought off four break points just to hold for 1-1 before taking charge against Makarova, breaking twice to take the set. In the second set, she needed four break points to win the first game before once more dominating Makarova.

"It was not as easy as the score said, because there were tough rallies," Kerber said. "She's a great player on grass, so I was just focusing on me, trying to be aggressive and take my chances. □

Lewis holds 1-shot lead over Wie in Women's Open

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PINEHURST, North Carolina (AP) — Stacy Lewis played bogey-free on a shorter, but equally tough Pinehurst No. 2 to take a one-shot lead over Michelle Wie on Thursday in the first round of the U.S. Women's Open when the opening round was halted because of storms in the area.

"It was such an easy day," Lewis said, referring to her game more than the golf course. "I played really, really solid, other than I had to make a few par putts. But other than that, I didn't put myself in too bad of spots and made a few birdies."

Wie made four birdies on the back nine, and a 10-foot par save on the par-3 17th hole, for a 68. Comparisons were inevitable for such an occasion — the first time the U.S. Open

and the U.S. Women's Open were held on the same course in back-to-back weeks. Pinehurst No. 2 was 1,064 yards shorter than it was for the first round last week.

That didn't make it any easier. Lewis, the No. 1 player in women's golf, and Wie were among five players who broke par when play was suspended with 30 players still on the course. Kaymer led 15 players under par in the first round last week. The scoring average for the women was 75.73, about 2 1/2 shots higher than the opening round for the men.

Former Women's Open champion So Yeon Ryu, Katherine Kirk and 18-year-old amateur Minjee Lee were at 69.

"I think we put on a great show," Wie said. "There are a couple of red num-

bers out there. There are a lot of people hovering around even par. But I think it's great. I love that we are playing on the same stage as the men. I think it's really interesting. It makes it very exciting."

The show belonged to Lucy Li, the 11-year-old from the Bay Area who became the youngest qualifier in U.S. Women's Open history. She missed only one fairway and was rarely out of position, though it cost the sixth-grader dearly when she was. Li made one triple bogey and two double bogeys, three blemishes on her card that led to a 78.

"I mean, it's 8 over," Li said. "It's not bad. But I was 7 over in three holes, so that's 1 over in 15 holes. So yeah, I just need to get rid of the big numbers."

There were plenty of those to go around.



Stacy Lewis watches her putt on the 13th hole during the first round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament in Pinehurst, N.C., Thursday, June 19, 2014.

Associated Press

At least 17 players failed to break 80, including Laura Davies. She had an 82, her worst score in a Women's Open since Cherry Hills in 2005. Perhaps more shocking was Lydia Ko, Cristie Kerr and defending champion Inbee Park, each of them at 76.

Karrie Webb and Paula Creamer were at 70. Juli Inkster, at 53 and playing in the Women's Open for the

35th time, had a 71.

"I don't think the course is on the edge at all," Webb said. "I think the USGA had to be a little bit cautious. We haven't played a tournament here with this course setup before, and it is the second week. So I think they're probably trying to see how the course is playing, just to see where they're at with the golf course." □

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Honduras VS Ecuador

Suarez pushes England to edge of World Cup exit

RAF CASERT
AP Sports Writer

Before the World Cup, Uruguay was worried about Luis Suarez's knee and Colombia was fretting over injured Radamel Falcao. Considering the wild celebrations Thursday, neither should have.

Less than a month after surgery, the incomparable Suarez came back Thursday to score two vital World Cup goals, and Colombia is through to the second round despite missing its star striker. Both South American teams won 2-1 Thursday, Uruguay pushing England to the brink of elimination, and Colombia beating Ivory Coast to advance from Group C after Greece and Japan played to a scoreless draw.

The results further underscored South America's dominance of the World Cup in Brazil.

The continent's teams now have 25 points out of a possible 30.

Colombia continued to produce goals and victories even without Falcao. For Uruguay, Suarez reinvigorated its campaign after an opening 3-1 loss to Costa Rica. Uruguay is level with Italy and Costa Rica in Group D, and those teams meet Friday in Recife.

About 15 miles from the site of the Uruguay-England game in Sao Paulo, about 2,000 people protested against the World Cup, some smashing windows at banks and car dealerships and spray-painting anti-capitalist slogans on buildings.

It was the latest protest to hit Brazil, which has seen hundreds of demonstrations in the past year by people expressing anger about poor public services,



Uruguay's Luis Suarez runs at goal to score the winner during the group D World Cup soccer match between Uruguay and England at the Itaquerao Stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Thursday, June 19, 2014.

Associated Press

corruption in government, the billions spent to host the World Cup and a litany of other complaints.

Inside the stadium, Suarez was hoisted aloft by teammates after the game as if he had won the World Cup. "I dreamt this. I'm enjoying this moment, because of all I suffered," Suarez said. Earlier in the tournament, stars have been coming through for their nations: Neymar for Brazil, Robin van Persie for the Netherlands, Thomas Mueller for Germany and Lionel Messi for Argentina. Suarez got started later, but he made up for missing a game with

his star performance Thursday.

After May 22 surgery on his knee left little hope for a World Cup appearance, Suarez looked completely healthy. He produced his toothy smile even before his header crossed the line to open the scoring. And after Wayne Rooney finally scored his first World Cup goal to tie the game for England, Suarez capped his return with something almost magical in Sao Paulo. With Uruguay under intense pressure in the 85th minute, Suarez gathered a long clearance that was accidentally headed on by

England's Steven Gerrard — his Liverpool teammate. His knee was in full flow as he unleashed a drive that goalie Joe Hart barely had time to see fly by. Suarez fell to the ground in disbelief before he was mobbed by delirious teammates.

"He doesn't miss" from there, England coach Roy Hodgson said.

Suarez produced tears of joy.

There were also tears of anguish. In a moment as memorable as many of the great goals, midfielder Serey Die sobbed uncontrollably during the Ivory Coast anthem.

His thoughts went back to his father who died a decade ago, but "I also thought about my tough life — I didn't think that one day I would be here, playing."

The match provided little joy though, as the 2-1 loss of the Ivory Coast's chances to advance in doubt.

Africa has had a miserable showing at the World Cup, with just 4 points out of a possible 21.

For South America, the home advantage was there for all to see by the frenzied pro-Colombian crowd inside the Estadio Nacional in Brasilia. □



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Guthrie, Royals win 10th straight, edge Tigers 2-1

The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Kansas City won its 10th straight game, extending its best streak in 20 years with help from Jeremy Guthrie and a lucky hop.

The Royals have not won this many games in a row since a run of 14 straight in 1994. They extended their AL Central lead over the Tigers to 1 1/2 games.

Guthrie (4-6) allowed four hits and struck out nine in 6 2-3 innings. Drew Smyly (3-6) nearly matched him, but the Detroit left-hander was hurt by Alex Gordon's RBI single that deflected off second base in the first and a solo homer by Omar Infante in the fifth.

J.D. Martinez homered for the Tigers in the seventh, but the Kansas City bullpen got the last seven outs, with Greg Holland pitching the ninth for his 21st save in 22 chances.

Kansas City will try for a four-game sweep Thursday.

RED SOX 2, TWINS 1, 10 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP) — Mike Napoli and David Ortiz hit consecutive homers with one out in the 10th inning as Boston rallied to hand Minnesota its fifth straight loss. Boston was held to one hit — a fifth-inning double by Daniel Nava — before the homers.

The Twins took a 1-0 lead in the top of the 10th on Chris Parmelee's two-out home run off Koji Uehara (2-1), snpping the closer's scoreless streak at 21 2-3 innings. But after Dustin Pedroia flied out to begin the Boston 10th, the Red Sox connected against Casey Fien (3-4) to complete a three-game sweep.

ATHLETICS 4, RANGERS 2 OAKLAND, California (AP) — Brandon Moss hit a tie-breaking double in the



Kansas City Royals left fielder Alex Gordon catches the fly out hit by Detroit Tigers' J.D. Martinez during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

Associated Press

fifth inning as Sonny Gray pitched Oakland past Texas, giving the Athletics the best record in the majors. Yoenis Cespedes and Josh Donaldson each had two hits for the A's. Oakland has won four of five and is a season-high 16 games over .500 at 44-28.

Gray (7-3) had won just two of his previous eight starts before going seven innings and striking out seven. Luke Gregerson pitched the eighth and Sean Doolittle worked the ninth for his ninth save.

Nick Tepesch (2-3) went five innings. Choo Shin-soo drove in both runs for the Rangers.

YANKEES 7, BLUE JAYS 3

NEW YORK (AP) — Brian McCann hit a go-ahead, two-run homer and later added a bases-loaded triple to lead New York over first-place Toronto.

The Yankees beat Mark Buehrle for the ninth straight time and handed the Blue Jays their 15th loss in a row in the Bronx.

Rookie right-hander Chase Whitley (3-0) remained unbeaten in seven starts since making his big league debut this season.

Buehrle (10-4) gave up three runs and six hits in six innings and lost his third straight start overall. He is 1-11 against the Yankees, with his lone win coming in 2004 with the Chicago White Sox.

McCann tied his career high with five RBIs. His third major league triple was his first since 2009 with Atlanta. Toronto's Jose Bautista had an RBI double for his 1,000th career hit.

ORIOLES 2, RAYS 0

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Kevin Gausman pitched six innings, Steve Pearce's double snapped a scoreless tie and Nelson Cruz added his major league-leading 22nd home run to help Baltimore beat Tampa Bay.

Pearce homered during a 7-5 victory Tuesday night and put the Orioles ahead this time with a line drive

down the right-field line in the fifth.

Alex Cobb (2-5) would have made it through the inning unscathed if second baseman Ben Zobrist hadn't mishandled Nick Markakis' grounder for an error.

Gausman (3-1) allowed five hits and struck out five, including Zobrist and James Loney after the Rays loaded the bases with no outs in the first.

The Rays were blanked for an AL-leading 11th time, finishing with five hits and going 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position.

WHITE SOX 7, GIANTS 6

CHICAGO (AP) — Jose Abreu hit his 20th homer, a two-run shot, and Adam Dunn added a three-run drive to help Chicago hand San Francisco its fifth straight loss.

White Sox ace Chris Sale (6-1) gave up three runs and eight hits in six-plus innings. Ronald Belisario got five outs for his seventh save.

Abreu reached 20 homers

in his 58th game, the third-fewest in major league history behind Wally Berger (51) and Mark McGuire (56). Chicago swept the two-game series.

Giants starter Tim Hudson (7-3) allowed seven runs and 12 hits in 4 2-3 innings, his shortest outing this season. He entered with a major league-best 1.81 ERA.

In other AL Kansas City 2, Detroit 1; Baltimore 2, Tampa Bay 0; Boston 2, Minnesota 1, 10 innings; Chicago White Sox 7, San Francisco 6; Oakland 4, Texas 2; Washington 6, Houston 5; N.Y. Yankees 7, Toronto 3; and San Diego 2, Seattle 1. □

Matteo Trentin wins Tour de Suisse 6th stage

DELEMONT, Switzerland

(AP) — Matteo Trentin held off Daniele Bennati in a final sprint to narrowly win the sixth stage of the Tour de Suisse on Thursday as Omega Pharma-Quick-Step teammate Tony Martin retained his overall lead. Trentin, who was led out perfectly by Martin in the final kilometer, attacked with 200 meters to go, and edged out Bennati by half a wheel.

Francesco Gavazzi was third on the 193-kilometer (120-mile) trek from Buren an der Aare to Delemont, beating Ben Swift to make it an all-Italian podium.

Martin retained his six-second advantage over Dutch cyclist Tom Dumoulin.

Peter Sagan of Slovakia was 10 seconds behind the German, heading into Friday's individual time trial.

The Tour de Suisse ends on Sunday. □

Kershaw pitches no-hitter as Dodgers down Rockies

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clayton Kershaw pitched his first no-hitter Wednesday night, striking out a career-high 15 and allowing his only baserunner on a throwing error by shortstop Hanley Ramirez in the Los Angeles Dodgers' 8-0 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

Kershaw's gem gave the Dodgers the only two no-hitters in the majors this season. Josh Beckett tossed one May 25 in Philadelphia.

Cheered on by his wife in the stands, Kershaw (7-2) retired his first 18 batters before Corey Dickerson led off the seventh with a slow bouncer to Ramirez. His throw on the run went wide past first baseman Adrian Gonzalez for a two-base error — ending any chance for a perfect game.

But that was it for the Rockies against Kershaw, a two-time NL Cy Young Award winner. And he came oh-so-close to throwing the 22nd perfect game since 1900.

REDS 11, PIRATES 4



The Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw delivers a pitch during a game against the Rockies at Dodger Stadium on Wednesday June 18, 2014.

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Alfredo Simon became the NL's first

10-game winner and Billy Hamilton had three hits and

three RBIs for Cincinnati. Simon (10-3) allowed three runs on five hits and three walks in 6 1-3 innings and Cincinnati won for the sixth time in seven games.

Brandon Phillips, Skip Schumaker and Zack Cozart each had two of the Reds' 14 hits in the game, which was delayed 1 hour, 15 minutes by rain in the bottom of the seventh inning. Schumaker also had three RBIs. Pittsburgh's Gregory Polanco went 2 for 4 and became the second player in Pirates' history — joining Spencer Adams (1923) — to have a hit in each of his first eight major league games.

Edinson Volquez (4-6) was tagged for eight runs in 2 2-3 innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, BREWERS 3

PHOENIX (AP) — Light-hitting Tony Campana singled home Martin Prado from third base with two outs in the ninth inning to propel Arizona to victory.

Prado doubled with one out to deep left center off Brandon Kintzler (1-3), advanced to third on David

Peralta's groundout, then scored when Campana slapped one up the middle.

Khris Davis hit a three-run homer for the Brewers' other runs.

Arizona's Chris Owings was a home run shy of the cycle and was robbed of a fourth hit by a diving stop by first baseman Mark Reynolds.

Brad Ziegler (3-1), who gave up the deciding grand slam in Tuesday night's 7-5 Milwaukee victory, retired all four batters he faced, three by strikeout, to get the victory.

The Diamondbacks will try to salvage a split of the four-game series Thursday.

PADRES 2, MARINERS 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Pinch-hitter Tommy Medica singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for San Diego in its first home game since Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn died of cancer Monday.

The light-hitting Padres honored Gwynn before the game and then cobbled together just enough offense for their second win in 10 games. □



Former baseball player Carlos Delgado, left, and Javier Vazquez, International Special Assistant of the Major League Baseball Players Association talks pose for photos after a press conference to announce a joint initiative with the Major League Baseball that will positively impact the development of youth baseball in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Thursday, June 19, 2014.

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Major League Baseball and the players' union said Thursday they are teaming to launch a new summer league in Puerto Rico to give island teenagers more chances to stay on the field during the school break.

The Puerto Rico Summer League is the latest move in efforts by the MLB and

the players' union to support youth baseball on the U.S. Caribbean island that has produced a long line of greats including Roberto Clemente and Orlando Cepeda.

But the numbers of local players making it to the big leagues has steadily diminished in recent years. There were 11 Puerto Rican play-

MLB, players' union team in Puerto Rico

ers on opening day rosters this season. In 2005, there were 34.

That's why the summer league for youngsters aged 14-17 can make a big difference, according to MLB Chief Operating Officer Rob Manfred.

"We all know that Puerto Rico has a great baseball tradition. We also know that great traditions need to be tended or else they deteriorate," he said at a press conference at a San Juan hotel.

The league will have two four-team divisions and will run for eight weeks in June and July in the San Juan suburb of Guaynabo and the western city of Mayaguez. Players were selected through tryouts throughout the Caribbean island.

The MLB has stepped up its drive to stop a slide in

Puerto Rico's production of major leaguers through a range of initiatives including player showcases and an intensive after-school training program. It has also been a long supporter of the Puerto Rico Baseball Academy, whose graduates include slugging shortstop Carlos Correa, the No. 1 draft pick in 2012.

The MLB and union officials acknowledged that the summer league and other programs won't send the number of Puerto Rican in the big leagues surging overnight.

"Development takes time. We believe we have laid a solid foundation," said Kim Ng, MLB's vice president of baseball operations.

For Tony Clark, executive director of the players' union, the key is keeping young Puerto Rican players

on the field, a goal that the new summer league can achieve. Among the retired Puerto Rican baseball players on hand for Thursday's announcement were slugging first baseman Carlos Delgado, infielder Alex Cora, and outfielder Candy Maldonado. Also present were Bronx-born Puerto Rican Bobby Bonilla and Javier Vazquez, both former major leaguers now working with the players' union. Manfred stressed that the MLB and players' union are committed to strengthening the sport in Puerto Rico. "There is no place outside of the States that we have spent more time and effort than Puerto Rico. It has really been at the top of our list in terms of developing a program to reinvigorate the development of players," he said. □

Tech Tips: Facebook ads, tracking and you

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — If you use Facebook, the specific ads you see have been based mostly on what you do on Facebook — your profile information, status updates, likes and interests. That's changing. The company says it will soon give advertisers more options to tailor ads to what you do outside Facebook. Shopping for a new TV? Get ready to see ads for TV sets on Facebook.

Unless you're willing to unplug, there's little you can do to avoid being tracked online. But there are some ways to control what ads you see and how the ads are tailored to you.

— **HOW IT WORKS:**

Facebook doesn't share your specific identity with advertisers. Rather, the advertiser can select the types of people to show ads to.

An advertiser might want to reach women who just moved to Boston and who just got engaged, for instance. When buying the ad, the advertiser checks all the boxes that apply. Facebook matches the ads to the specific people who fit those attributes, without having to reveal their identities to the advertiser.

Besides the obvious attributes such as location, age and gender, advertisers can select languages, "ethnic affinity" and life events such as people who have recently moved, are living away from their family, got a new job and so on. Advertisers who want to target the newly engaged can narrow that down to engagements within one year or within three months. There are even options to target baby boomers, video game console players, early or late adopters of technology, fans of specific sports teams or people who go on cruises.

Facebook even considers your offline shopping behavior. Facebook's advertisers can see, for example, whether the ad for detergent you saw on Facebook led you to buy that brand

in a drug store the following week. Facebook works with outside analytics firms to match what Facebook knows with what the retailers have on you and what you bought. Your name isn't attached to this, but it may still feel creepy.

Not every piece of data is used to target advertising, at least not yet. For example, the company recently introduced "near-by friends," which lets you share your exact location with your Facebook buddies so you can meet up. So far, you won't see ads targeted to you based on the street corner you are standing on, but it's easy to see how this could happen one day.

— **WHAT'S NEW:**

In the coming weeks, Facebook will start offering advertisers another way to tailor ads in the U.S., based on information gathered from other websites you visit and the apps you use. This is called interest-based advertising, and Facebook says "many companies already do this."

Facebook already serves "retargeted" ads. So if you visited Zappos.com and looked at a pair of black

flats, you might see the same shoes pop up in a Zappos ad on Facebook. With interest-based targeting, a company selling socks might show you an ad based on your interest in shoes — even if you did not previously visit its website.

— **WHAT YOU CAN'T CONTROL:**

The best way to stop tracking is to stop using the Internet and move into a cave. "Everywhere you go on the Web, with almost no exceptions, you are going to be receiving ads based on lots of data about you," says Jules Polonetsky, who advises Facebook on privacy issues as director of the Future of Privacy Forum, an industry-backed think tank in Washington.

A few Internet companies such as Twitter, Hulu and Pinterest, along with some advertising networks and analytics firms, have agreed to adhere to voluntary guidelines called "do not track." That lets people decline tracking by websites that they don't visit. Google, Facebook and Yahoo — among the largest hubs for online advertising — isn't participat-



This image provided by Facebook features ad preferences, a new tool accessible from every ad on Facebook that explains why you're seeing a specific ad and lets you add and remove interests that the social networking site uses to show you ads.

Associated Press

ing so far, so your preferences mean nothing there.

— **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

Facebook does participate in a version of "do not track" for mobile devices. To do this on iPhones and iPads with iOS 7, go to settings, then privacy, then advertising. Slide the lever next to "limit ad tracking" to the right, or green. On Android, go to Google settings (as opposed to the regular settings). Then choose ads and select

"opt out of interest-based ads." If you are a Facebook user in the U.S., you will soon be able to click on a drop-down menu on the top right corner of every ad to find out why it's being shown to you. You'll still have the option to hide the specific ad from your feed, or hide all ads from that particular advertiser. Now, you can click on "Why am I seeing this ad?" to see why the ad was targeted to you. □

Lego to introduce mixed digital-physical blocks

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On the heels of success with "The Lego Movie," the Danish toy company is giving kids a chance to put their own blocks on the screen, with a new product line that copies their creations into phone and tablet games. The Lego Fusion line will launch in August. Each \$35 box will contain some 200 bricks and a special plate to build on. Creations on the plate can be photographed with Apple or Android phones or tablets and imported into free, downloadable games.

There are several Lego-themed games already, but this is the first time it's blending real and virtual this way. Many toy companies are going down that route, trying to cap-



This undated image provided by Lego shows a version of the Lego Fusion line, a play experience that combines traditional LEGO brick play with familiar app-based game themes.

Associated Press

ture some of the attention — and money — that's being diverted from physical products to iPhone and Android games.

In "Lego Fusion Town Master," kids build house facades on the plates and

import them into a game that simulates a small town, inhabited by Lego figures. In "Battle Towers," they build sections of a medieval-style tower and defend it against flying monsters. In "Create & Race,"

they build cars and race them on a virtual track. Different designs yield cars that differ in speed, durability and handling.

In September, Lego is following up with "Resort Designer," in the style of its girl-oriented "Friends" line.

The games are designed to force the kids to return to the physical blocks and rebuild their structures, said Ditte Bruun Pedersen, senior design manager at Lego's Future Lab. But the lab's research also shows that kids want to bring their physical creations to life, she said.

"Kids want to be this mini-figure and they want to be in this world they create," Pedersen said. The Fusion boxes are launching in the U.S. only and will be exclusive to Toys R Us and Lego's own stores, Lego said. □

Gauge of US economy gains 0.5 percent in May

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A gauge designed to predict the economy's future health increased for a fourth month in May, providing further evidence that the economy is gaining strength after a harsh winter caused activity to go into reverse.

The Conference Board said Thursday that its index of leading indicators increased 0.5 percent last month, an improvement from a revised 0.3 percent gain in April. The strength was broadly based with positive contributions from all the financial and labor components of the index. "Recent data suggest the economy is finally moving up from a 2 percent

growth trend to a more robust expansion," said Conference Board economist Ken Goldstein. "Going

The overall economy actually shrank at an annual rate of 1 percent in the January-March quarter,

rebounded strongly in the April-June quarter to possibly as much as a 4 percent growth rate. They are forecasting a solid performance in the second half of around 3 percent growth.

The expectation is that rising employment will fuel further gains in consumer spending.

The leading index is composed of 10 forward-pointing indicators. For May, seven of the 10 showed gains with the largest positive contributions coming from low interest rates, falling weekly unemployment claims and gains in manufacturing hours.

The biggest negative factor holding the index back was a drop in applications for building permits. □



This photo shows a new home under construction in Riverview, Fla. The Conference Board reported on its index of leading economic indicators for May on Thursday, June 19, 2014.

(AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

forward, the biggest challenge is to sustain the rise in income growth which will drive consumption."

the victim of a severe winter which crimped activity in a number of areas.

But analysts believe growth

General Electric makes revised offer for Alstom

PARIS (AP) — General Electric Co. on Thursday submitted a revised offer to buy the power generation business of France's Alstom SA that the American company hopes will be enough to win approval from the French government and see off a rival bid by Germany's Siemens AG. GE says its new offer revises the \$17 billion cash offer for Alstom's power business it made in April, adding new guarantees on sensitive concerns over jobs and decision-making, while leaving the deal's overall value unchanged.

In a statement, GE Chief Executive Jeff Immelt said the revised offer was the result of seven weeks of discussions with the French government. The new offer "creates jobs, establishes headquarters decision-making in France and ensures that the Alstom name will endure," Immelt said. Whereas the original offer entailed a clear-cut cash buyout of Alstom's power business, GE's new proposal calls for the two companies to set up three 50/50 joint ventures: one for the power grid businesses, another for the offshore wind and hydro-power operations, and a third for the nuclear steam turbines business.

Siemens and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan presented a rival offer Wednesday, and an independent committee of Alstom's board is slated to review both offers and make a recommendation to the entire board before Monday.

Alstom CEO Patrick Kron has made clear his preference for the GE tie-up, which he himself had a role in negotiating. Siemens and Mitsubishi emerged as rival bidders after the French government expressed reserves about seeing the historic French company fall under American sway.

GE reiterated its demand that Alstom's board take a decision on accepting the deal by June 23. □

Late recovery gives S&P another record close

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Investors remained in a record-setting mood Thursday.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed at an all-time high for the second time in two days and notched its fifth gain in five days.

The Dow Jones industrial average and Nasdaq composite ended mixed after drifting between small gains and losses for much of the day.

The three key stock indexes all opened higher, holding on to tiny gains in premarket trading as investors sized up the latest data on unemployment aid applications and an index of economic indicators.

The Labor Department reported that applications for unemployment benefits fell last week to 312,000, the lowest in more than six years. The Conference Board added to the good news, saying its index of leading indicators rose 0.5 percent in May from the previous month.

The market began to drift lower, however, as investors looked beyond the economic data and focused instead on a mixed bag of corporate earnings from companies such as Kroger, Rite Aid and Pier 1 Imports.



Trader Thomas Ferrigno works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, June 19, 2014. A late push higher left stock indexes mostly higher and the Standard & Poor's 500 at another record high. The S&P 500 rose two points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,959 while the Dow Jones industrial average rose 14 points, or 0.1 percent, to 16,921.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

By midday, stocks veered into the red, where they remained until halfway through the final hour of trading, when a late push elevated the S&P 500 and Dow barely higher on the day.

"Right now we're in a situation where they're pretty boring markets, just a slow, easy grind," said Chris Gaffney, a senior market strategist at EverBank Wealth Management.

The S&P 500 index rose 2.50 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,959.48. That's slightly above the prior day's record close of 1,956.98. The

last time the index closed at a record high was June 9th.

The Dow Jones industrial average added 14.84 points, or 0.1 percent, to 16,921.46. The Nasdaq composite slipped 3.51 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,359.33.

The three indexes are all up for the year.

The string of record highs has the S&P 500 index running ahead of its 50-day moving average. That suggests it could be in for a pullback, said Jim Russell, senior equity strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Manage-

ment. Russell still expects the market to move higher in coming months.

"We think the environment is still favorable for equities to have an upward bias," Russell said. "It's still too early to put the bear suit on." Despite its upward bent, the market has been mostly registering small moves, reflecting a cautious mood on the part of many investors heading into summer, as well as lingering concern over the possible fallout from the crisis in Iraq and questions over the resiliency of the U.S. economy. □

Rite Aid 1Q profit drops on costs, revenue rises

CAMP HILL, Pa. (AP) — Rite Aid's fiscal first-quarter profit dropped 55 percent as it dealt with higher-than-expected drug costs and reimbursement rate reductions. Its earnings matched analysts' expectations, while revenue was slightly above of Wall Street's view. For the period ended May 31, the nation's third-largest drugstore chain reported net income attributable to common stockholders

of \$41.4 million, or 4 cents per share. A year earlier it earned \$91 million, or 9 cents per share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet expected earnings of 4 cents per share. Revenue for the Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, company climbed 3 percent to \$6.47 billion from \$6.29 billion mostly due to better sales at pharmacies open at least a year. This beat Wall Street's estimate of \$6.44

billion. Sales at stores open at least a year rose 3.1 percent, while sales at pharmacies open at least a year increased 4.6 percent. This figure is a key gauge of a retailer's health because it excludes results from locations recently opened or closed. Rite Aid Corp. said that the number of prescriptions filled in stores open at least a year climbed 2.3 percent from a year ago. Prescription sales

made up 68.4 percent of total drugstore sales, and third party prescription revenue was 97.4 percent of pharmacy sales. The company maintained its fiscal 2015 forecast for earnings between 30 cents and 40 cents per share. Revenue is still anticipated in a range of \$26 billion to \$26.5 billion. Wall Street is looking for full-year earnings of 35 cents per share on revenue of \$26.19 billion.

Its shares fell 29 cents, or 3.9 percent, to \$7.15 in morning trading. Its shares had been up 47 percent so far this year. Investors had been returning to the stock — which they had pushed below \$1 by late 2012 — as Rite Aid has cleaned up its balance sheet and closed underperforming stores. Rite Aid has 4,581 stores in 31 states and the District of Columbia. □

BlackBerry results surprise, topping expectations



BlackBerry CEO John Chen delivers a speech at the launch of the new BlackBerry Z3 smartphone in Jakarta, Indonesia. BlackBerry surprised Wall Street Thursday, June 19, 2014, by posting results that beat analysts' expectations. Shares rose 10 percent in premarket trading as Chen cut expenses quicker than expected.

(AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim)

ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — BlackBerry surprised Wall Street by posting financial results that beat analysts' expectations. Shares rose almost 12 percent in morning trading as CEO John Chen cut

expenses quicker than expected. The embattled smartphone company reported net income of \$23 million, or 4 cents per share, for the three months ended May 31. It had reported a loss of \$84 million, or 16 cents per share, a year ago.

Excluding unusual items, its adjusted loss was 11 cents per share in the latest period. Analysts surveyed by FactSet expected a loss of 35 cents per share. Revenue fell to \$966 million from \$3.07 billion a year ago. Analysts expected revenue of \$961.7 million.

Shares rose 96 cents, or 11.6 percent, to \$9.25 in morning trading.

"We are getting very close to making money or at least break even on hardware. Not quite there yet, but close," Chen said on a conference call with analysts.

It is the third quarterly results under Chen, who is deemphasizing the hardware business after last year's launch of the BlackBerry 10 failed to spark a turnaround. The BlackBerry has been hammered by competition from the iPhone as well as an Android-based rival.

"He's doing exactly what John Chen should be doing. He's right sizing the business to fit demand. He is focused in the areas where he is still relevant. He's cut partnerships to shore up weaknesses," said Colin Gillis, an analyst at BGC Partners. "If they can get this business where they are selling a million phones a month they'll be a nice little niche. It will be a nice

little profitable business." BlackBerry sold 2.6 million phones in the quarter and reported cash and investments of \$3.1 billion. Chen said 80 percent of BlackBerry's 50 million subscribers are business users.

"People stay with BlackBerry because they're enterprise users, there's high productivity and security. I would say 80 percent of that 50 million is this perfect base for us," Chen said.

Chen said the company will launch a new keyboard smartphone model called the BlackBerry Passport in London in September followed by the previously announced Classic in November.

Chen, who is credited with turning around Sybase, a data company that was sold to SAP in 2010, has been putting more emphasis on BlackBerry's mobile device management business, a collection of software that allows IT departments to manage different devices connected to their corporate networks. □

Kroger 1Q results top Street; boosts outlook

CINCINNATI (AP) — Kroger saw a 4 percent jump in first-quarter profit and the nation's biggest supermarket raised its earnings forecast for the year. Shares rose more than 5 percent in morning trading Thursday to an all-time high. The Cincinnati company — which also runs Ralphs, Fry's

and other chains — earned \$501 million, or 98 cents per share, for the quarter. That compares with \$481 million, or 92 cents per share, a year ago. Removing non-recurring charges, The Kroger Co. earned \$1.09 per share, four cents better than analysts polled by FactSet had

been projecting. Revenue jumped 10 percent to \$32.96 billion, which also edged out expectations due in part due to a new acquisition, the grocer and pharmacy Harris Teeter. Sales at established locations climbed 4.6 percent, excluding fuel. Those comparable-stores sales

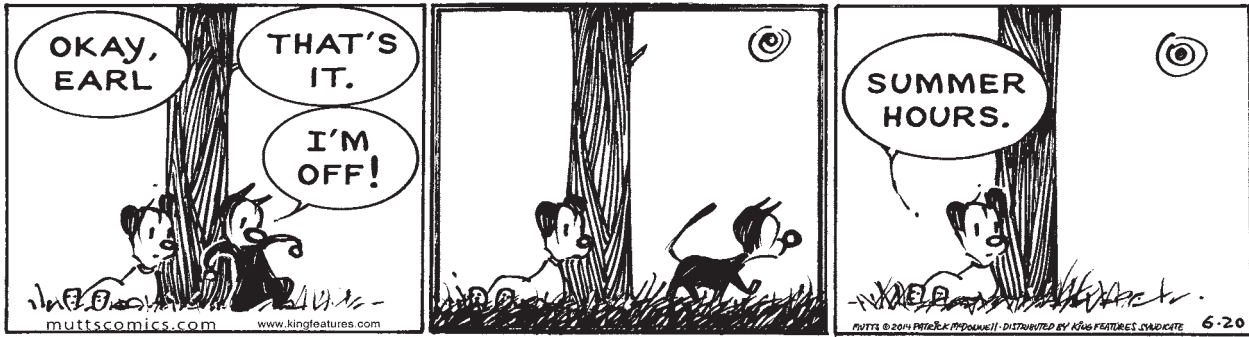
can be a key indicator of a retailer's health because it excludes volatility from locations recently opened or closed.

Kroger now foresees fiscal 2014 adjusted earnings between \$3.19 and \$3.27 per share. Previously it predicted \$3.14 to \$3.25 per share. The company also in-

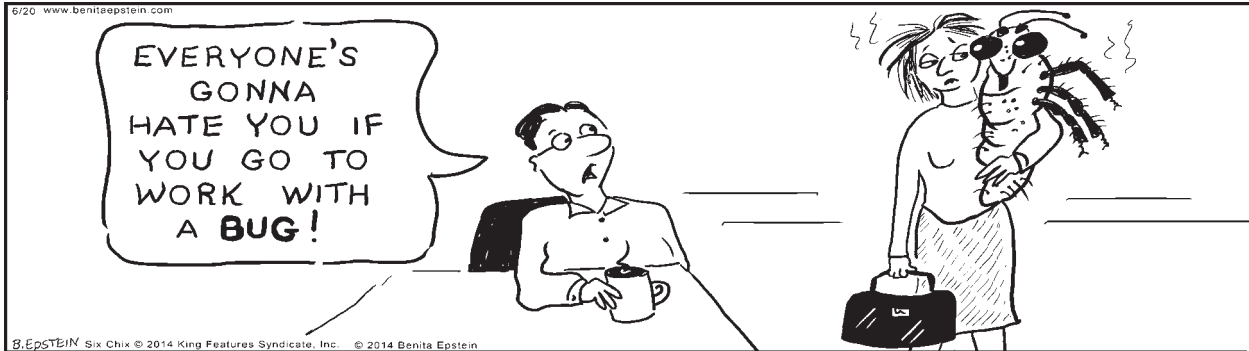
creased its full-year guidance for sales at established locations, excluding fuel. It now anticipates 3 percent to 4 percent growth. Its prior outlook was for a 2.5 percent to 3.5 percent increase.

Shares reached \$50.20 in early trading, which is a new high. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3				2	4	5	
	1			7	6		3
					6		7
		7			9		
5		2					
8			2	5			1
	6	5	8				4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/20

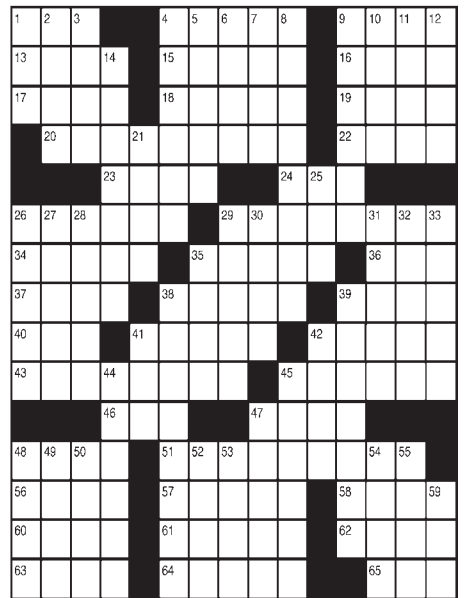
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	3	5	1	6	4	9	7	2
4	1	7	5	2	9	6	3	8
9	2	6	7	3	8	1	5	4
3	4	1	8	9	6	5	2	7
2	5	9	3	7	1	8	4	6
6	7	8	2	4	5	3	9	1
7	9	2	6	1	3	4	8	5
5	6	3	4	8	2	7	1	9
1	8	4	9	5	7	2	6	3

ACROSS

- 1 Poke
4 Borders
9 Hits with a stun gun
13 Unit of land
15 Ruth's Israelite mother-in-law
16 Way out
17 Authentic
18 Primly reserved
19 "Not guilty," for one
20 Figurine
22 Sage or thyme
23 Foot digits
24 ___ as a fox
26 Half of the diameter
29 ___ grandfather; dad's dad
34 Dumbhead
35 Monica of tennis
36 Inventor ___ Whitney
37 Word of disgust
38 Soak
39 Political party's interpretation
40 "Last one in's a rotten ___"
41 Loses one's footing
42 Room to maneuver
43 Goes in again
45 Climbed
46 Storm center
47 Reach across
48 Sword fight
51 Mainly
56 Goofs
57 Sea duck with soft down
58 Author Bellow
60 Frozen waffle
61 Cinnamon ___; tasty pastries
62 Luau dance
63 Lowly laborer
64 In ___; chic
65 Morning grass blade moisture
- DOWN
- 1 Mayo container
2 Highest cards



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/20/14

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

JUDE	CALIF	POPE
ISEE	AWARE	EWER
MEAL	BACKBURNER	
ADD	HIRE	RISKS
	ROUND	AGO
SLIDES	SWEDEN	
LENDS	FATED	CID
EGGS	RAPID	COCA
DIE	MISER	JANET
TRUANT	SENORA	
NOD	SPASM	
ASTIR	THEN	IDO
INITIATION	SCAN	
LIME	SALAD	PANT
SPED	HEELS	ALSO

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6/20/14

- 3 Unruly child
4 Follows as a result of
5 Goes out with
6 Nanny or billy
7 Give off fumes
8 Steer clear of
9 Gentle wind
10 Wheel rod
11 Dock
12 Pierce
14 Great joy
21 Praise highly
25 Brown with an orchestra
26 Passenger
27 Saying
28 Funeral song
29 Marshmallow Easter candies
30 Frothy drinks
31 Neighbor of India
32 Linda Lavin TV series
33 Like a pricey coat's interior
35 ___-crazy; tired of confinement
- 38 Slumberers
39 Language heard in Madrid
41 Pigpen
42 Sign of an old wound
44 Late Mandela
45 Not thickly populated
- 47 Use one's nose
48 Profound
49 Yen
50 Therefore
52 Street uprising
53 In a lazy way
54 Praise
55 Christmas
59 Ordinance

Health Care Poll: Many still struggle to pay premiums

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans who signed up under President Barack Obama's health care law rate their new insurance highly, but a substantial number are struggling with the cost, according to a poll released Thursday. The survey from the non-partisan Kaiser Family Foundation provides findings that both sides in the health care debate can seize on. It's an ambitious look at people who buy their coverage individually; they're the ones most affected by the Affordable Care Act. "The critics' view of the law as an unmitigated disaster is far from true, but it's not what advocates might have hoped for either because many people still have concerns about affordability," said Drew Altman, CEO of the foundation, an information clearinghouse about the health care system. The poll found that Obama's law, the signature achievement of his first term, is achieving one



This photo shows people using a phone bank to sign up for health care insurance at the business office of Parkland Hospital in Dallas. A new poll finds that most people who signed up under President Barack Obama's health care law rate their insurance highly, but a substantial number are still struggling with the cost. The survey released Thursday by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation provides ammunition for both sides in the polarized national debate over health care.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

of its main goals by covering the uninsured. Fifty-seven percent of the 8 million Americans who bought a plan through the new insurance exchanges were previously uninsured. But greater access to coverage has come at a price that's uncomfortably steep for many.

Despite the availability of generous subsidies, 4 in 10 of those who bought a plan that meets the law's specifications said they had difficulty paying their monthly premiums. That's a sobering reality check on assertions by the Obama administration that coverage is readily affordable. □

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Rock that whizzed by Earth may be grabbed by NASA

BY SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

NASA is zeroing in on the asteroids it wants to capture, haul near the moon and have astronauts visit. Officials on Thursday described a prime candidate: A tiny asteroid that whizzed about 7,600 miles (12,250 kilometers) above Earth in 2011.

At 20 feet (6 meters) long, it is "the size of a delivery truck; we might actually be able to put this asteroid in a garage," said Northern Arizona University astronomer Michael Mommert, who studied the rock, which goes by the inelegant name of 2011 MD.

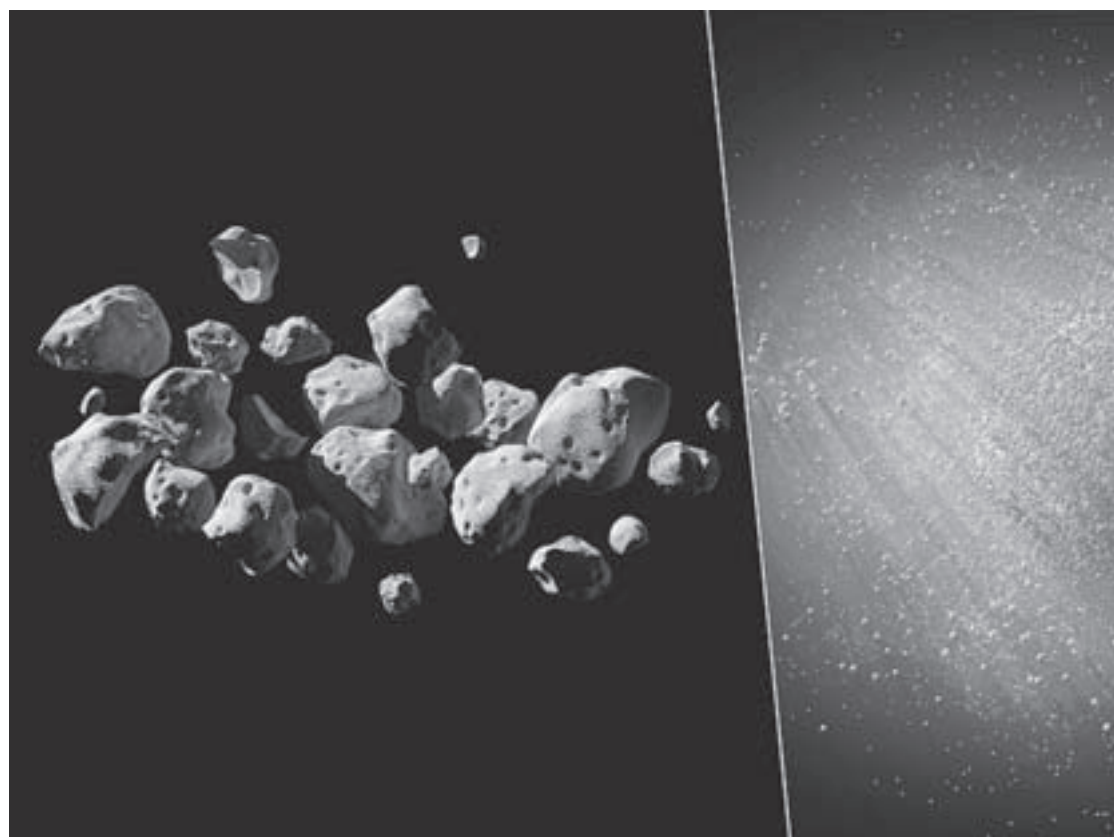
That asteroid also could be a pile of smaller rocks that fly together in formation.

NASA's plan is to grab an asteroid with a giant claw

or capture it with a giant inflatable bag. The asteroid would be parked above the moon, with astronauts exploring in a later mission. NASA executive Lindley Johnson said there will eventually be about 10 possible rocks for capture in the early 2020s, but they may not all be small asteroids. There's a second option NASA is considering: Sending a spacecraft to a much larger asteroid, using a claw to pluck off a boulder that's less than 30 feet (9 meters) and taking it near to the moon.

NASA will decide which option to pursue by the end of the year, said Michele Gates, program director for the asteroid mission.

So far, NASA has three candidates for each option. But Johnson said he expects more to be iden-



This undated handout two-picture combo of artist conceptions provided by NASA/JPL Caltech shows what NASA says are good candidates for a mission to capture an asteroid, haul it to the moon for astronauts to visit.

Associated Press

Spacewalkers complete tiring antenna installation

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida

(AP) — A pair of space-

walking astronauts managed to install a new antenna Thursday outside the International Space Station, despite some equipment trouble.

Russians Alexander Skvortsov and Oleg Artemiev panted and sighed as they dealt with balky clamps and latches. Mission Control outside Moscow urged them to take frequent breaks.

"Resting is most important," Mission Control radioed in Russian.

Two hours into the spacewalk, the first-time spacewalkers still were struggling to secure the antenna, considered a major job.

"We almost have it. Almost there," one of the astronauts said as the work dragged on.

Two of the three locks clicked into place on the antenna. But the third would not work right, and the astronauts had to use a wire tie instead. Each spacewalker tugged on the tie to tighten it. With



Russian space station crew member Oleg Artemiev floats outside the International Space Station during a space walk by two Russians, Thursday, June 16, 2014, to install a new antenna and move a cargo boom.

Associated Press

that finally complete, the two successfully made a series of connections, eliciting a "Hurrah!"

"Slowly but surely," one of the spacewalkers said.

Running behind schedule, Skvortsov and Artemiev moved on to their next chore. Their to-do list included moving a payload boom and switching out science experiments.

The four astronauts inside monitored the action while conducting their own work. "Pretty neat up here right

now," U.S. astronaut Reid Wiseman said via Twitter. "Two Russian crew mates are spacewalking but business as usual for me and @astro_alex," he said, referring to German Alexander Gerst. The crew includes three Russians, two Americans and the one German. The Americans are supposed to venture out on NASA-led spacewalks in August. Skvortsov and Artemiev also have another spacewalk scheduled for August. □

tified. NASA doesn't have to choose its final target until a year before launch, which could be as early as 2019.

But Thursday's press conference highlighted 2011 MD. That's because when it came close to Earth in 2011, it was examined by telescopes on Earth and the Spitzer Space Telescope. Details of the asteroid were published in an astronomy journal Thursday.

Those observations showed that it probably

weighs around 100 tons but is so porous that about two-thirds is empty space and only one-third is rock, Mommert said.

NASA has touted the asteroid mission since the space shuttle fleet retired as a stepping stone to send crews to Mars.

The robotic cost of the mission would be about \$1.2 billion, Gates said. But there's no good estimate yet for the astronaut part, which includes using a yet-to-be-built giant rocket, officials said. □

Chilean mountaintop blasted for giant telescope

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)

— Astronomers in Chile blasted away the top of a mountain Thursday during a ceremony to mark the start of work on what they say will be the world's largest optical telescope.

The 9,800-foot (3,000 meter) Cerro Armazones mountain is to be the home of the European Extremely Large Telescope. The blast to level the summit loosened about 5,000 cubic meters of rock in preparation for construction.

The ceremony was presid-

ed over by officials at the European Southern Observatory in northern Chile.

The telescope will have a 128-foot (39-meter) mirror, and the astronomers are calling it "the world's biggest eye on the sky." They say it will help advance the study of planets around other stars, supermassive black holes and "the exploration of completely unknown realms of the Universe."

Officials expect the telescope to be completed by 2024. □

Gerry Goffin, Carole King's ex-husband, dies at 75

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gerry Goffin, a prolific and multi-dimensional lyricist who with his then-wife and songwriting partner Carole King wrote such hits as "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," "Up on the Roof" and "The Loco-Motion," died early Thursday at his home in Los Angeles. He was 75.

His wife, Michelle Goffin, confirmed his death.

Goffin, who married King in 1959 while they were in their teens, penned more than 50 top 40 hits, including "Pleasant Valley Sunday" for the Monkees, "Crying in the Rain" by the Everly Brothers, "Some Kind of Wonderful" and "On Broadway" for the Drifters and "Take Good Care of My Baby" by Bobby Vee. Goffin was able to pen jokey lyrics or achingly sad ones, and he did it for solo artists and multiple voices. King and Goffin divorced in 1968, but Goffin kept writing hits, including "Savin' All My Love for You" for Whitney Houston. Goffin and King were inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1987 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame three years later.

King said in a statement that Goffin was her "first love" and had a "profound impact" on her life.

"Gerry was a good man with a dynamic force, whose words and creative influence will resonate for generations to come," King said. "His words expressed what so many people were feeling but didn't know how to say."

The Goffin-King love affair is the subject of the Tony Award-nominated musical "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" on Broadway. King, while backing the project and with one of their daughters acting as a producer, had avoided seeing it for months because it dredged up sad



This undated image released by The O and M Company shows lyricist Gerry Goffin at the opening night of "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical," in New York.

Associated Press

memories. She finally sat through it in April.

The musical shows the two composing their songs at Aldon Music, the Brill Building publishing company in Manhattan that also employed Neil Sedaka, Howard Greenfield and Carole Bayer Sager. The show ends just as King is enjoying fame for her groundbreaking solo album "Tapestry." Though it also alleges Goffin's womanizing and mental instability were causes of the breakup, he happily attended the opening of the musical. A spokeswoman for the show said the cast would dedicate Thursday night's performance to Goffin.

After his divorce from King, Goffin garnered an Academy Award nomination with Michael Masser for the theme to the 1975 film "Mahogany" for Diana Ross. He also earned a Golden Globe nomination for "So Sad the Song" in 1977 from the film "Pipe Dreams."

Goffin was born in Brooklyn in 1939 and was working as an assistant chemist when he met King at Queens College.

"She was interested in writing rock 'n' roll, and I was interested in writing this Broadway play," Goffin told Vanity Fair in 2001. □

Haggis' 'Third Person' love stories cloak puzzle

LAURI NEFF

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Paul Haggis says that on the face of it, his new film, "Third Person," looks like three love stories that take place in three cities — Rome, Paris and New York — "where the characters could never meet."

But when strange, incongruent things start to occur, the audience will realize that "it just pretends to be three love stories and then it's a puzzle."

Haggis weaves the stories together like he did with his 2004 film, "Crash," which won Oscars for best picture and original screenplay. But instead of examining prejudice, "Third Person," which he wrote and directed, explores how and why people fall in love — and the passion, trust and betrayal that can follow.

The all-star cast includes Liam Neeson, Olivia Wilde, Mila Kunis, Adrien Brody and James Franco. The film opens in New York and Los Angeles on Friday.

Neeson said Haggis' storytelling style attracted him to the role.

"Paul's very, very gifted at doing these multistrata sto-



This June 9, 2014 file photo shows director Paul Haggis at the Los Angeles Premiere of his film "Third Person" in Los Angeles. The film stars Liam Neeson and Maria Bello.

Associated Press

ries," he said, "and they're very, very clever."

As for intertwining the stories, Haggis said, "You put them together. You pull them apart" several times before showing it to friends and in limited screenings and then starting all over again. "It was deconstructed and constructed dozens and dozens of times."

Haggis said piecing the film together with editor Jo Francis required "a lot of

experimentation." He said some things were shot deliberately.

"Olivia comes around once to pick up a shoe, I know that I was going to have Mila Kunis picking up the shoe someplace else," he said.

Haggis said that in other cases, shots open to transitions, like people walking in and out of doorways.

Sound was also used to connect scenes. □

Chelsea Handler heading to Netflix with talk show



In this May 2, 2013 file photo, Chelsea Handler arrives at "An Unforgettable Evening" benefiting EIF's Women's Cancer Research Fund at The Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills, Calif.

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Netflix is expanding its empire of original content with a talk show to be hosted by Chelsea Handler.

The online TV network said Thursday that the outspo-

ken comedian's new show will begin in early 2016. It will update the format of her current E! talk show, "Chelsea Lately,"

but retain the comedic focus on entertainment and cultural issues, Netflix said. No other details were pro-

vided.

Handler will end the seven-year run of "Chelsea Lately" on Aug. 26.

Her deal with Netflix begins with a standup performance premiering Oct. 10. Based on her tour, "Uganda Be Kidding Me," the special will be taped in Chicago on Friday.

In 2015, she will create four docu-comedy specials on subjects including NASCAR, politics, Silicon Valley and the NBA draft.

The 39-year-old Handler's planned departure from E! (which she announced in March) had sparked speculation that she might find a late-night home on a broadcast network. □

Nyong'o's goal after Oscar win was not to trip



In a Sunday, March 2, 2014 file photo, Lupita Nyong'o arrives at the Oscars, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Looking back, Lupita Nyong'o says the moments after she won her Academy Award this year were a blur and time stood still. But she says in the July issue of *Vogue* there's one thing she does remember: worrying she would trip on her way to the podium. "It's not cute if you follow Jennifer Lawrence — it's not cute if you're the second one!" she laughed, referring to Lawrence's famous stumble while collecting her best-actress Os-

car the year before.

The 31-year-old actress has a steady path ahead of her.

She will voice a character in Jon Favreau's take on Disney's "The Jungle Book" and landed a role in "Star Wars: Episode VII." Plus she's going to co-produce and star in an adaption of the Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie book "Americanah," saying the story blew her away.

The July issue of *Vogue* goes on sale Tuesday in New York and Los Angeles. □

HBO to air segments of Beyonce concerts

NEW YORK (AP) — Beyonce is headed back to HBO. The network announced Thursday that it will air four 10-minute segments of her concerts ahead of "True Blood." Dubbed "Beyonce: X10," the segments will air Sundays at 8:55 p.m. Eastern starting June 29. The final season of "True Blood" premieres Sunday. The footage is from Beyonce's Mrs. Carter World Tour, which wrapped in March. She launches a co-headlining tour with Jay Z next week. The Beyonce documentary "Life Is but a Dream" debuted on HBO last year. The network said it was the most viewed music special on the channel since 2003. The megastar is



This Aug. 17, 2013 file photo shows U.S. singer Beyonce Knowles performing at the V Festival in Chelmsford, Essex, Britain. Associated Press

riding high off the release of her self-titled fifth album, which has sold 2 million units. It features the hit, "Drunk in Love." □



In this undated photo, singer and "The Phantom of the Opera" star Norm Lewis, center, is flanked by producer and musical supervisor Chapman Roberts, left, and producer David Greer. Associated Press

Carnegie Hall concert honors black history

MARK KENNEDY AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In a rehearsal room near Times Square this week, some two dozen men with Broadway-honed voices huddled to strategize. They were practicing choral work ahead of a landmark concert Monday at the mighty Carnegie Hall, and creator-producer Chapman Roberts knew what those voices will be facing.

"We will be accompanied by a 65-piece orchestra and they're going to be giving it all they got," Chapman said, triggering some nervous clapping. "Now there's a way to not compete with them. And that is: don't try."

Chapman and his singers have a very personal reason to get their sound just right: Their black tie, music-stacked, one-night-only concert celebrates the legacy of African-American men on Broadway.

"The Black Stars of the Great White Way" will feature the music of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Louis Jordan, Eubie Blake, Cab Calloway and Paul Robeson. Tickets range from \$35-\$200.

Stars such as Ben Vereen, Andre De Shields, Cecily Tyson, Phylicia Rashad, Chuck Cooper, Savion Glover, Hinton Battle and Chita Rivera will be on hand, and original cast members from "Five Guys Named Moe," "Smokey Joe's Cafe," "Motown" and "The Scottsboro Boys" will sing.

The nine honorees include household names like actor Robert Guillaume to pioneers like Geoffrey Holder, a principal dancer at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 1955; dancer-choreographer Louis Johnson, whose credits include "Damn Yankees"; and Harold Wheeler, an orchestrator on the original "Promises, Promises" in 1968.

"The accomplishments have gone unnoticed and we are having a good time digging it up and celebrating with everybody," says Chapman, an original "Hair" cast member who became a Broadway musical supervisor and arranger.

The idea of the concert began with Norm Lewis, who, even before becoming Broadway's first black Phantom in "The Phantom

of the Opera," had heard young men to call him an inspiration for roles in "Les Miserables" and "The Little Mermaid."

"I saw that and I said, 'If they're seeing me this way, I want to celebrate the people I felt that same way about — Andre De Shields, Robert Guillaume, Chapman Roberts.' No one had ever celebrated that. I wanted to celebrate black men on Broadway."

As the show's go-to guy, Roberts certainly has his work cut out. He anticipates a nonstop lineup of songs that culminates in all the performers — over 100, including seven Tony winners — sharing the stage for three songs. "We've never all been in same room together," says Roberts. "There's a huge legacy that's going to be on that stage."

The only downside is he has only 2½ hours to showcase decades of rich history. "I've condensed it as much as I possibly can," he said. "Basically, everyone's going to come out and go, 'Ba-da-bum-dum-dum' and Bam, they're out."

Adds Lewis with a laugh: "You won't be satisfied, but you'll be satiated." □

The Structures of Growth



DAVID BROOKS
© 2014 New York Times

Most of us are trying to get better at something. And when we think about our future progress, we tend to imagine we will improve linearly. We'll work hard at mastering some skill; we'll steadily get better and better.

But, as the Canadian writer Scott H. Young points out in a recent blog post, progress in most domains is not linear. In some spheres, like learning a language or taking up running, improvement is logarithmic. You make a lot of progress when you first begin the activity, but, as you get better, it gets harder and harder to improve.

Logarithmic activities require a certain sort of mindset, Young writes. During the early high-growth phase, when everything is coming easily, you have to make sure you maintain your disciplined habits, or else you will fall backward. Then later, during the slow-growth phase, you have to break some of your habits. To move from good to great, you have to break out of certain routines that have become calcified and are now holding you back.

For example, when Tiger Woods was first competing at golf, he had to stick to his arduous practice routine even though success seemed to come ridiculously easy. But then, when he hit a plateau, he had to reinvent his swing to reach that final tippy-top level.

In other domains, growth is exponential. In these activities, you have to work for weeks or even years at mastering the fundamentals, and you barely see any return. But then, after you have put in your 10,000 hours of effort, suddenly you develop a natural ease and your progress multiplies quickly.

Mastering an academic discipline is an exponential domain. You have to learn the basics over years of graduate school before you internalize the structures of the field and can begin to play creatively with the concepts. Ice hockey is an exponential activity (it takes years just to skate well enough). Many people quit exponential activities in the early phases. You've got to be bullheaded to work hard while getting no glory. But then when you are in the later fast-progress stage, you've got to be open-minded to turn your hard-earned skill into poetry. Vincent van Gogh had to spend years

learning the basics of drawing, but then, when he'd achieved mastery, he had to let loose and create art.

I could think of some other growth structures. In some domains progress comes like a stairway. There's a period of stagnation, followed by a step upward, followed by a period of stagnation, followed by another step. In other domains, progress comes like waves repetitively lapping the shore. You go over some material and the wave leaves a residue of knowledge; then you go over the same material again and the next wave leaves a bit more residue.

Yet other domains follow a valley-shaped curve. You have to go down initially before you can go up. The experience of immigrating to a new country can be like this; you have to start at the bottom as you learn a new society before you can make your way upward. Moral progress is like this, too. You have to go down and explore your own failures before you can conquer them. You have to taste humiliation before you can aspire toward excellence.

Thinking about growth structures reminds you that really successful people often have the ability to completely flip their mental dispositions. In many fields, it pays to be rigid and disciplined at first, but then flexible and playful as you get better. If you go into politics, you have to make the transition from campaigning, which is an instantly gratifying activity, to governing, which is an exponential activity, requiring experience, patience and hard-earned wisdom. This way of thinking also makes it clear that skill acquisition is a deeply moral activity. You don't only need knowledge about what to do; you have to train yourself to defeating your natural desires. In the fast-growth phase of a logarithmic activity, you have to fight the urge to self-celebrate and relax. In the later phase, when everyone is singing your praises, you have to fight self-satisfaction.

It does seem clear that our society celebrates fast-payoff instrumental activities, like sports and rock stardom, while undervaluing exponential activities, like being a statesman or craftsman. Kids increasingly flock to logarithmic sports, like soccer, over exponential sports, like baseball. Finally, this focus on growth structures takes your eyes off yourself. The crucial thing is not what traits you intrinsically possess. The crucial questions are: What is the structure of your domain? Where are you now on the progress curve? How are you interacting with the structures of the field?

The crucial answers to those questions are not found in the mirror. They are found by seeing yourself from a distance as part of a landscape. That's a more pleasing and healthier perspective in any case. □



Starbucks' Lattes and College Degrees



JOE NOCERA
© 2014 New York Times

On Monday, Howard Schultz, chief executive of Starbucks, unveiled his company's newest - and possibly most important - perk for its employees: a free college education. He announced this new program on a stage in The Times Center in Manhattan, alongside his partner in the new venture, Michael Crow of Arizona State University. Starbucks has long been a trailblazer in offering company benefits; part-time employees get stock options and health insurance. Schultz has also been one of the few chief executives willing to speak out - and do something - about the need to get people back to work again. A few years ago, I wrote a column about a Starbucks program that turned donations from customers into small business loans. What I hadn't realized is the extent to which Arizona State is a trailblazer as well. Under Crow's leadership, it is attempting nothing less than the reinvention of the university.

If Crow's model succeeds, it offers some real hope that higher education can become, as it once was, a place that views its mission as educating everybody, not just the world's elites. "In the bottom quartile of family incomes, only 9 percent of kids attain a college education," Crow said about five minutes after I met him Monday afternoon.

"And, in the top quartile, 80 percent get a college education, regardless of academic ability." That statistic is what he is trying to change.

Although Crow grew up in a working-class family, he spent a good chunk of his career at one of the nation's most elite schools: Columbia University. He was the executive vice provost there before becoming president of Arizona State 12 years ago. He told me what appealed to him about Arizona State was precisely that it offered the chance to create a completely different model.

"Traveling around the country, I could see that the U.S. was having a hard time modernizing, in a sense," he said.

"There was industrial decline, and underperforming K-12. There was a need for industrial redesign."

He found himself influenced by a handful of books, including "A University for the 21st Century" by James Duderstadt, a former president of the University of Michigan. In the book, Duderstadt argued that if universities were to remain relevant, they need to be reinvented.

Or, as Crow puts it, "How would you build a public university of greater public service that would be more adaptable to the rapidly changing society? Could you do it at scale? In a way that allowed everybody to have a chance?"

His first - and, in some ways, most radical - decision was that Arizona State was going to embrace what he calls "inclusion" instead of "exclusion." The elite universities, egged on by the U.S. News & World Report rankings, proudly talk about what a small percentage of students they accept. Indeed, it is how the culture has come to define quality in a university.

Crow went in the opposite direction: Anybody with a B average in the high school courses Arizona State deemed necessary to

prepare for a college education could get in. He was also insistent that the school remain affordable. For in-state students pursuing an undergraduate degree, the "list price" at Arizona State is about \$5,000 per semester, although once grants and financial aid is factored in, the average cost is \$3,800 per student.

As the student body began to change - today, 50 percent of the school's 73,000 students are coming from the lower half of the income strata - the learning had to change as well.

And so it did. Arizona State developed digital tools that aided individualized learning. Of the school's 16,000 courses, 10,000 are "tech-mediated" in some way, Crow said.

Inevitably, this led to Arizona State instituting a catalog of online courses - and online degrees - which is what Starbucks is offering its employees. The great advantage of an online course is that the student can listen to the lectures or do the work on his or her own time. It is a way of reaching students who might otherwise not be able to go to school.

Crow insists that online courses at Arizona State have the same rigor as classroom courses.

"They are taught by the same faculty that teaches in our classrooms," says Christopher Callahan, dean of the university's journalism school.

Crow told me that just as Schultz had been looking for a university to partner with, he had been looking for a corporation. He thinks that Arizona State has the capability to ultimately teach 100,000 students online, and that the Starbucks partnership could add as many as 15,000 new students. When I asked him where the 100,000 number came from, he said, "That is an assessment of what share of the country's need that we can handle."

Grandiose? Perhaps. But higher education could certainly use a little more such thinking. □

Author Finds His Corner of the Sky in Colorado

STEVEN KURUTZ

© 2014 New York Times

As a boy growing up in Brooklyn, Peter Heller was fascinated by the mythic West, in particular the cowboy novels of Louis L'Amour.

"I remember the cover of this one L'Amour book showed a guy on horseback, leading a pack horse across a creek in the snow," Heller, 55, said. "Something about that cover - all I wanted to do was drift the high lone-some on horseback."

After graduating from Dartmouth, Heller made a bee-line for Colorado, where instead of roping steers he ran rivers in a kayak and became an adventure journalist for *Outside* and other magazines, before turning to fiction and publishing a best-selling debut novel, "The Dog Stars," in 2012, and a second novel, "The Painter," out last month.

For the past 14 years, Heller has lived mostly in Denver, where he shares a house on a lake with his wife, Kim Yan. But when he was 30, before he published his first novel, he followed a girlfriend to Paonia, a little town about five hours west of Denver, a fertile place of orchards, farms and vineyards, ringed by mountains.

Heller "fell in love immediately" with the area, he said. He went kayaking there and learned to fly-fish. And when 20 acres of scrubland just south of town came up for sale, he spent \$13,000 to buy the land (he now owns 180 acres there).

The first thing Heller built on the property was a dock for a pond - which was also the first thing he had ever built. Without carpentry skills or a steady income, he knew that any house he built would have to be simple in design and cheap to construct. He also wanted it to be "harmonious with the landscape," he said, "so when you looked at the house, you hardly saw it."

The solution came in the form of what Heller de-

scribed as a "magic machine" owned by one of his neighbors: a contraption that made blocks of compressed dirt. The dirt came from Heller's land. The resulting blocks were stacked to form the walls, an ancient building technique.

Heller hired a crew of three and had help from a carpenter friend to frame the doors and windows. All the wood in the 1,100-square-foot house (mostly fir and lodgepole pine) was milled by another neighbor. To position the windows, Heller said, he would stand inside the rising shell, pick a nice view and say, "There!" "It was all seat-of-the-pants; I and the crew had to figure everything out as we went," Heller said, calling the process "architecture without architects."

Because the 18-inch-thick earth walls trap heat in cold weather and blunt the sun on hot days, Heller was able to build off the grid, using only an old



Author Peter Heller's simple earthen home on 180 acres of property in Paonia, Colo. The little town, about five hours west of Denver, is a fertile place of orchards, farms and vineyards that is ringed by mountains.

(John Burcham/The New York Times)

feels "burrowed in" whenever she visits.

"There's a very slight earthen smell, and it smells so good," Jones said. "The floor is this poured mud

sitioned to take in a view of the mountains; and two small bedrooms. The plaster walls have a light pink tinge, like an old church in New Mexico. French doors

study poetry and fiction for a year but returned to Paonia to finish the interior and live there while writing an epic poem for which he had received a fellowship. More recently, Heller incorporated the house into his latest novel. In the book, the narrator and main character, a painter with violent impulses, comes to live in a cabin in Paonia "made of real adobe bricks by a poet no less," a meta reference to the character's (and the cabin's) creator.

Heller lived full time in the cabin for nine years, reveling in the beauty of the landscape and the rural simplicity. Sometimes, he said, he would wake in the darkness of early morning, walk off toward Mount Lamborn and shoot an elk for food - a cowboy novel come to life.

But, eventually, the natural bounty became distracting and demotivating, Heller said: "When I lived in that house, I was so saturated by beauty. I would do a travel article a month and call it good, then ride my mountain bike around."

Heller and his wife now use the cabin as a getaway place to swim and fly-fish. Heller frequently visits alone, too, staying for a week or more at a time. □



The spare main room, with its cracked, poured-mud floor, of author Peter Heller's simple earthen home on 180 acres of property in Paonia, Colo.

(John Burcham/The New York Times)

wood stove for warmth. Electricity is provided by solar panels that charge a bank of batteries.

"The house grew up from the dirt," Heller said. "There's nothing unnatural in it. You really feel cradled in there."

Lisa Jones, the former girlfriend who introduced Heller to Paonia and who has remained a friend, says she

floor. It's rough on your feet. It feels like when the meteor hits, that house is going to have no problem returning to the earth. But it's beautifully done."

The interior is spare: one big main room containing the kitchen, a dining table, the wood stove, a rocking chair and a little couch; a bathroom with an old green claw-foot tub po-

open to a thatch-roofed patio.

A Colorado-based author, Jones has used Heller's house as a writer's retreat. "Your whole urban system rewires pretty fast," she said.

Heller retreated to the house to write, as well. After building the basic structure, he went off to the Iowa Writers' Workshop to